The PRODUCER

Vol. XII | DENVER, COLORADO | No. 7

Thirty-fourth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Seattle, Washington, January 28-30, 1931

ANLSA

DECEMBER 1930

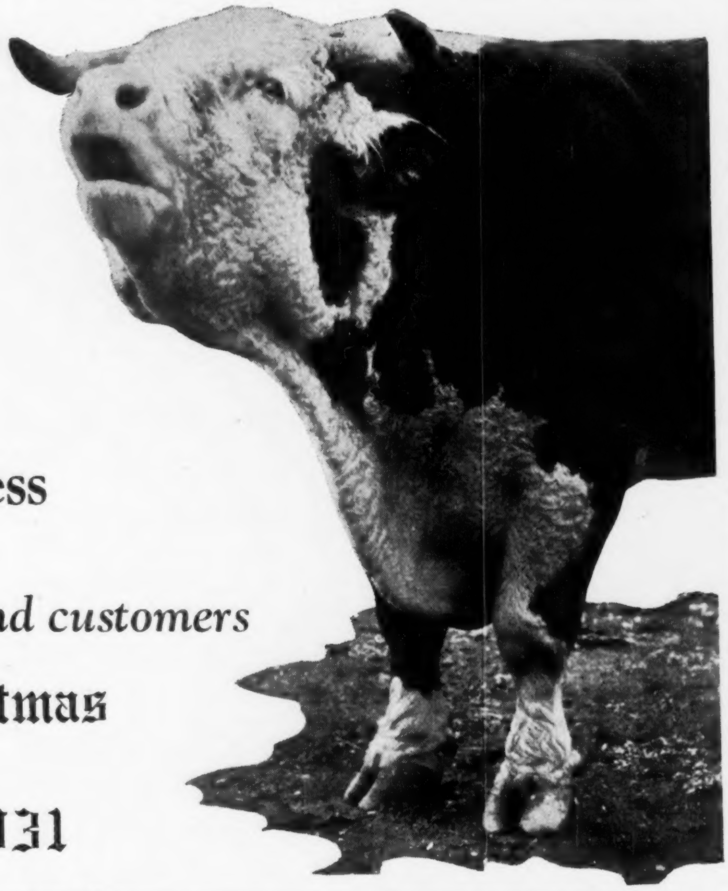
Official Organ of the
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY — ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

The

DENVER MARKET

is always
prepared and
looking for business



To our many friends and customers

A Joyful Christmas
and
Prosperous 1931

Plan now to attend the

SILVER JUBILEE

of the

NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW

at Denver Stock Yards

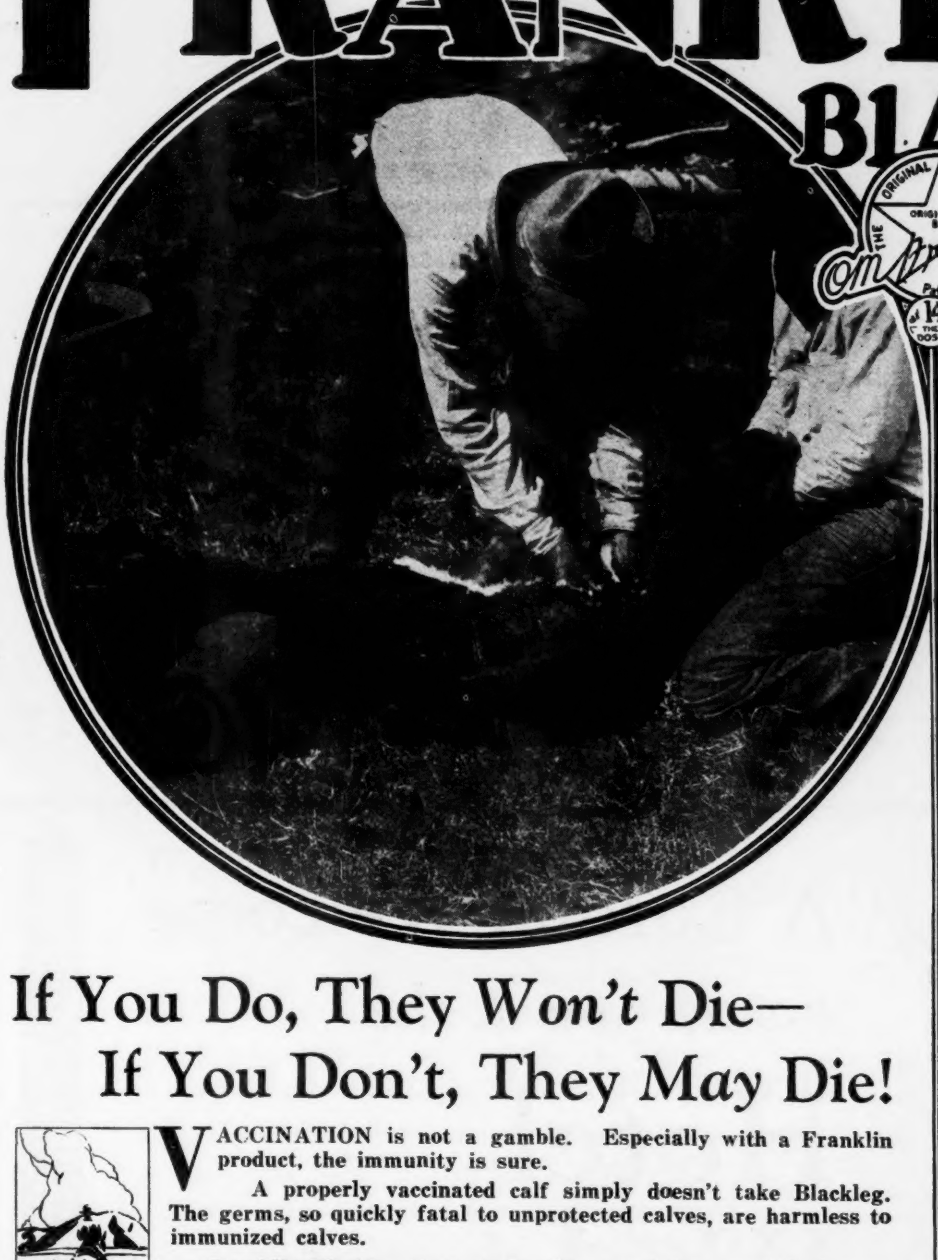
JANUARY 17 to 24, 1931

Ship 'Em to DENVER

EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTIVE
ENTERTAINING NEW FEATURES
RODEO NEW SALES RING

On its Twenty-fifth Anniversary—

Better than Ever!




Calf Book

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECEMBER, 1930

(Published at 515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado. Entered as Second-Class Matter June 11, 1919, at Post Office at Denver, under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for Mailing at Special Postage Provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, Authorized on September 21, 1921.)

THE PRODUCER
THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume XII | DENVER, COLORADO, DECEMBER, 1930 | Number 7

Cattle Industry of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil

BY E. L. THOMAS

Foodstuffs Division, Department of Commerce

CATTLE WERE INTRODUCED BY THE earliest colonists of Argentina. They were first brought into the River Plate regiõn, and later the industry had its inception in Uruguay. Presumably, too, the presence of the first cattle in southern Brazil may be dated from about the time of their appearance in the two neighboring countries.

Up to the dawn of the twentieth century the descendants of these original herds had been permitted to roam the unfenced pampas, their principal service to mankind being the tallow and hides produced from the carcasses of the animals slaughtered. Packing-plants, and the development of an export trade with foreign markets in frozen and chilled beef, inaugurated a new era in the South American industry. Beef of better quality than the native, or *criolla*, stock could produce aroused interest in selective breeding, which the packers encouraged by paying premiums for the improved types of beef animals. Cattle-raising is now carried on in accordance with the best approved methods, and herd improvement is being practiced by leading cattle-raisers in Argentina and Uruguay. The same is true to a less extent in Brazil, as the advent of the export packing-plant in this last-named country is of more recent date; but it may be said of Brazil, nevertheless, that the breeders of that country recognize the merit of better beef animals and are rapidly eliminating scrub stock from their herds. The transition of large areas in Argentina to other agricultural pursuits, such as sheep-raising and the growing of grain, has, no doubt, lent added impetus to this movement for raising the standards of Brazilian beef animals, as producers are finding a ready market for their cattle, at equitable price returns.

Distribution of Cattle

In Argentina, cattle are to be found in practically all of the provinces and territories of the republic. The central portion of the country, with 86 per cent of the total grazing area, produces about 70 per cent of all the cattle, including most of the high-grade stock, so that this district may be regarded as best suited for cattle-raising from considerations of climate, topography, and other factors. According to the registrations in the Argentine Herd Book as of December 31, 1928, nearly 75 per cent of the registered cattle of Argentina were Shorthorns, and another beef-type breed, Herefords, came second with about 13 per cent. Originally, though, Shorthorns were not well received, and there was considerable prejudice engendered because of a popular belief that a Shorthorn produced too light a hide. The premiums paid for superior grades of beef cattle quickly won over the objectors, however, and, as the figures cited clearly demonstrate, Shorthorns and Herefords enjoy wide popularity among Argentine breeders.

Statistics as to registrations—the best source for determination of the relative status of the different breeds—are not available for ready reference, but imports for recent years reflect the dominant position of the Hereford in Uruguay. The extent of

cattle-raising in that country, and the importance of the industry as a source of the national wealth of Uruguay, may best be illustrated by stating that 88 per cent of all the acreage in the republic is devoted to cattle-grazing, and that the value of the

PEDIGREE HEREFORD COWS IN ARGENTINA

industry in 1927 was placed at roughly $290,000,000, or about one-eighth of the total national wealth.

As previously stated, herd improvement has not to date progressed in Brazil to the same degree as in the neighboring countries of Argentina and Uruguay. Owing to less favorable climatic conditions, tick infestations, and other handicaps that must be combated, a very large proportion of the beef cattle are Zebu stock crossed with native cattle. However, in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, the cattle population of which represents about 25 per cent of the total number of cattle in Brazil, the breeding of Shorthorns and Herefords on native stock has been very successful. In the warmer north—a country of relatively few cattle—the Polled Angus has given satisfaction. All in all, Zebu blood may be said to predominate, although breeders are divided into two camps as to the merits of Indian cattle. The ability of cattle of the Zebu strain to withstand, on occasion, in good condition, the long overland drives of 400 to 1,000 miles is said also to weigh in their favor. The concentration of cattle is very largely in southern Brazil. In addition to Rio Grande do Sul, already mentioned, the State of Minas Geraes has about 23 per cent of the Brazilian cattle herds, and the States of Goyaz, Matto Grosso, Bahia, and Sao Paulo smaller numbers.

Government Census of Cattle

None of the three countries constituting the major cattle-raising industry of South America has taken a census of cattle at regular intervals in the past.

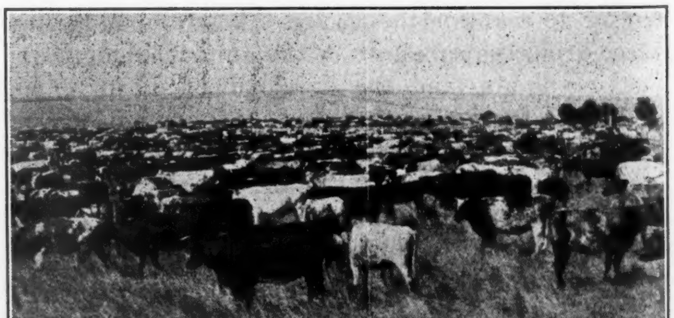
The first census of record in Argentina occurred in 1888, when there were 22,000,000 head. In 1916, numbers had increased to 27,000,000, and on December 31, 1928, it was estimated that there were 34,410,000 cattle in that country, indicating a recession from the high figure of 37,065,000 head—the national estimate for 1922. (A recent [1930] census places the number of Argentine cattle at 31,974,000. —ED.)

A government census for Uruguay in 1900 recorded slightly less than 7,000,000 head. The last official census, in 1924, was 8,432,000 cattle. An unofficial estimate in July of last year gave the number as 9,153,000 head. The industry has suffered losses during this interval of thirty years, particularly between 1908 and 1916.

Brazil's potentialities as a beef-producer are quickly seen when it is shown that the latest census (1920) recorded 34,250,000 head of cattle, or about half the total of the United States for that year. (An estimate of 1927 put the number at 57,521,000.—ED.)

The Packing Industry

In the main, American and English concerns are the largest operators, and have contributed much to the advancement of the industry to its present high plane of efficiency and importance. Although experimental shipments of refrigerated beef from Argentina to Europe were attempted successfully as long ago as 1877, frozen beef cannot be said to have passed beyond this experimental stage until 1900, when a British ban on live cattle, owing to an epidemic of hoof-and-mouth disease in Argentina, lent the infant frozen-beef packing industry the stimulus necessary to its subsequent expansion. The first *frigorificos*, four in number, began operations, on an extremely small scale, in 1902. American packers first entered Argentina by the purchase of a British-



ROUND-UP OF SHORTHORNS ON ARGENTINE PAMPAS

owned plant at La Plata in 1908, and immediately initiated a campaign to encourage selective breeding, to which allusion has been made previously. Other American and English packers followed this pioneering American packer, and in 1910 chilled beef began to be a factor in the export trade of Argentina. By 1912 it had practically replaced the United States

product on the Smithfield market in London. Between 1920 and 1925 Argentine chilled-beef exports exceeded those of frozen beef. There is no doubt that the intervention of the World War, and the consequent demand for lower-grade beef, were responsible for retarding the supplantation of frozen beef.

Cognizance was taken of the important factor the Argentine plants of American packers had become in the competition for the export beef trade of Argentina as early as 1911, when, with the formation of a beef pool, the American companies were allocated 42 per cent of the total exports. A revision became necessary in 1914, when the Argentine plants of the American packers obtained an allocation of 63.3 per cent. In 1914 the *frigorificos* slaughtered 1,433,000 head of Argentine cattle, or 45 per cent of the total kill. In 1927 they bought 3,233,787 cattle, and in 1928, 2,818,116 head.

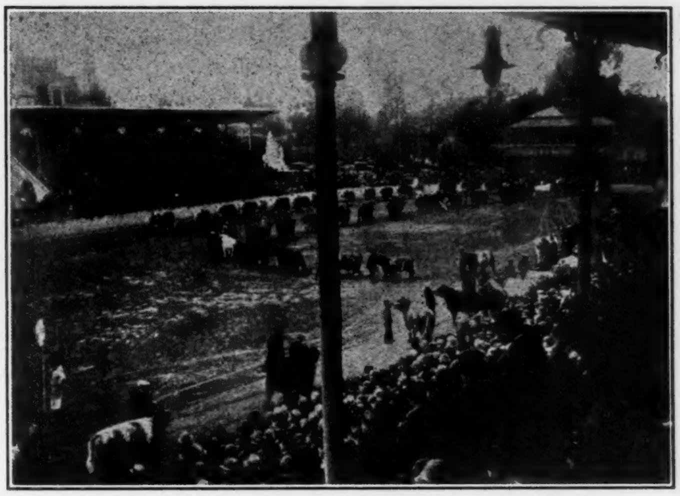
There are four *frigorificos* in Uruguay at the present time, three of them being American-owned and the fourth a native establishment. The American plants have been in operation for a number of years, but the native *frigorifico* is much more recent, and in July, 1929, passed into the control of the Uruguayan government. The growth of the packing industry in Uruguay is clearly evidenced by the annual slaughterings. In 1906 these totaled but 4,093 animals, while 817,382 head were killed at the four plants in 1927, and 697,000 in 1928. Expansion was particularly marked during the years of the World War, but the post-war slump had a material effect on the industry, which did not begin to hit its stride again until 1923.

Altogether Brazil has seven modern packing-plants, four of which are located in the State of Sao Paulo and the remaining three in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Of those in Sao Paulo, two are owned by American companies and the other two by British packers—the Vestey interests. In 1928 the four Sao Paulo *frigorificos* handled 66 per cent of the entire cattle kill, and the three plants in Rio Grande the remainder, or 34 per cent. The American plants are credited with 62 per cent of the Sao Paulo slaughterings in 1928, the total of which for the previous year was 359,802 head for all four plants, and in 1924, 302,400 cattle.

Post-War Trends in Production

As was inevitable, the termination of the World War brought a cessation of the acute demand for meats, and left the cattle-raisers of South America with expanded herds. In one Argentine province—the Province of Buenos Aires—for example, cattle increased from 9,000,000 head in June, 1914, to 12,300,000 four years later—an increase of 37 per cent. The same situation was duplicated throughout the major cattle countries of South America.

The years immediately following the war—1921, 1922, and 1923—were the most disastrous South American cattle-raisers have ever experienced. Prices at the end of 1921 were below those prevailing in 1914, and in the next two years a further slump was witnessed. The impossibility of quick adjustment to meet the changing order of things made the lot of the cattleman particularly disheartening. Relief was not in sight until 1924, when increasing purchases by the export packing-plants alleviated the depression. With fairly constant production during the past four years, and the elimination of surplus cows and calves, there has been a measurable improvement throughout in the South American cattle industry.



MARCH PAST OF BREEDING STOCK AT PALERMO LIVE STOCK EXPOSITION, BUENOS AIRES

THE COWBOY AS VIEWED THROUGH EASTERN EYES HALF A CENTURY AGO

THE SUBJOINED ARTICLE, WITH THE ACCOMPANYING wood-cut, is reprinted from *Harper's Weekly* of October 6, 1883. It portrays the cowboy of the western range as he appeared to the denizens of the East at about the time he first broke into print:

"COWBOYS

"The 'cowboys' of the Rocky Mountain regions are a race or a class peculiar to that country. They have some resemblance to the corresponding class on the southern side of the Rio Grande, but are of a milder and more original type. In the great herding districts, where the cattle are fattened in great part upon the public domain, and roam, winter and summer, over vast areas without fences, without roads, and with only scattered and irregular places for water and shelter, the herdsmen play an important industrial role. It is their business to keep the cattle as nearly together as possible, to guide them to the springs and wooded hollows, to separate them when they get mixed up with those of other droves, to brand them at the proper seasons, and to drive them to the nearest market at others. Often their regular occupation is attended with a good deal of danger. In Montana and in some parts of Colorado and Dakota the Indians, turned loose to hunt buffalo near their reservations, fall upon the cattle and run them off, and against these raids the cowboys go always armed, and not unfrequently have to undertake exploits which, were they United States cavalrymen, would be reported to the War

COWBOYS OF COLORADO LASSOING AND BRANDING CALVES

Department as 'battles.' At other times the men in the employ of rival and jealous owners become involved in quarrels which end in a more or less free fight. Again, when the season is severe, and snow falls among the lower slopes of the mountains, the care of the herds becomes a hazardous task. Still again the half-tamed cattle 'stampede,' and it becomes a matter of no small amount of courage, skill, and address to keep them or get them together. On such occasions the cowboys are obliged to hang on the flanks of the plunging herd, and keep them, as far as they can, headed in the same direction, until the cattle from sheer weariness relapse into some sort of quiet and orderliness. The tendency to 'break' is a mystery even to the most experienced herders. It usually shows itself toward night, and there are unmistakable signs of its approach, but no general theory of its origin has been reached.

"The outfit of the cowboy is a horse, usually one of the 'ponies' of the region—swift, tough, ugly in look and temper, but capable of good service when once trained; a Mexican or 'army' saddle, such as are shipped in great quantities from New York; a blanket, or, with the best herdsmen, a pair, one being of rubber; one or more pistols, sometimes a rifle; and, with great uniformity, a liberal flask of whisky. Among those who seek this wild life on the very frontiers of civilization, or beyond them, there are naturally many untamed and lawless spirits, and these have given to the name of cowboy a character hardly deserved by the class. For the most part they are laborious, faithful, and as sober as their fellow-men in the same region. But constant exposure, a monotonous life varied only by danger or exertion of extraordinary character, and exclusion from the usual social relations, inevitably tend to make the more disorderly among them reckless and cruel. Gambling and drinking are about the only diversions accessible, and both are indulged in with a zest quite unknown to the quieter circles of civilized parts of the country. Even among the worst of cowboys thieving is rare, and the outrages with which they are charged in this line are usually committed by men who resemble them only in being mounted and armed. There attaches to the name an unconscious association with the cowboys of the Revolution, whose only calling was to steal cattle and everything else they could run off from either side along the 'debatable ground' between the British and Continental camps. The cowboys of the West have, on the contrary, a regular business, which the greater number of them follow with quite as much fidelity as the average farm-hand or 'drover' of the East.

"It is not to be denied, however, that the exceptions to this rule are sufficiently striking to attract the attention of the lovers of the picturesque in current reading, newspaper or other. Occasionally a band of the cowboys will take it into their heads, in an interval of leisure, to 'clean out' a neighboring town. For one of these excursions they 'load up' with whisky, gallop at nightfall into the streets, and race down them, firing right and left at anyone whose appearance indicates a degree of luxury which, in the interests of their ideal of democracy, should be suppressed. Then they visit the liquor saloons or gambling hells, which are only too frequent, consume what they like, and drive out the occupants. A few weeks ago a squad of five rode into Ute Creek, Colorado, and, perceiving a Mexican trader with the high-sounding name of Don Macedio Arragon, made some impudent demand of him. He refused it, snatched his shotgun, and retreated down the road. When the cowboys followed and fired on him, he returned the fire, killed two of them and wounded a third, and then fell, shot in four places. He lingered twelve hours and died, and the murderers escaped. At Deadwood a band recently undertook to 'clean out' a Mexican gambling saloon, but two of them were killed, and the others fled. On a lonely ranch in Colorado a little company of them quarreled over their cards. In the first moment the oil-lamp was thrown down, and a desperate fight with knives and pistols went on in the darkness, until four men were left lifeless on the floor, slippery with blood, and only one escaped, badly gashed and shot, to tell the awful tale. Terrible as such occurrences are, they are the incidents of a mode of life which necessarily draws many of the more wayward and

violent of the frontier population, and though they stand out in bolder relief, they are not proofs of a greater brutality or a lower type of manhood than the affrays which frequently take place on the excursion boats from our own city. Indeed, bad as are the worst of the cowboys, the class, as a whole, are better than the 'gangs' which infest portions of the river wards of New York, the neighborhood of the Thames Embankment in London, or the *quartiers excentriques* of Paris. And what is more, the worst of the former are sure to disappear, while the latter grow in numbers and violence with the progress of 'civilization.' "

STAGE BEING SET FOR NEW CATTLE DEAL

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CATTLE PRICE MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN SO CONfusing for months past as to impair all sense of direction. No satisfactory explanation of the $2 to $3 advance late in August has ever been presented, and subsequent reactions of $1 to $1.50 per cwt., at periods when the whole market appeared to be sliding down a well-greased set of skids, have been equally inexplicable. What caused heavy bullocks to jump $1 per cwt. overnight just prior to Thanksgiving Day—a time when beef is usually the underdog of the victualing trade? Beef-house operators are apparently in a constant condition of bewilderment. One week buyers are charged to get cheap beef; the next, only good yearlings are wanted for replenishment purposes, to the neglect of heavy bullocks; but a few days later anything wearing a hide, weighing anywhere from 1,300 to 1,700 pounds, acquires overnight popularity.

Cattle trade is in a strong position, compared with other species. During previous periods of depression, cattle, hogs, and sheep have sold at, or close to, a parity. That rule is now being ignored. Top cattle at $13.75, hogs at $8.50, and lambs at $8.75 invite inquiry. Probably the explanation is to be found in diminishing beef production, while that of pork has been maintained at a good average over the past decade, and lamb production has been mounting rapidly. Logically, these production trends should place cattle in a strong strategic position with respect to the other species. On the other hand, beef is actually high, pork and lamb cheap, and the multitudinous hatchery has filled the whole North American continent with poultry superabundance that jeopardizes the standing of beef, pork, and lamb. Fortunately for live-stock growers, the human appetite tires of poultry. It has been served *ad libitum*, also *ad nauseam*, at every public dinner in the country, until an advanced stage of satiety has been reached.

Such statistics as are available reveal this strong strategic position of beef. Production has been steadily diminishing since the last year of superabundance—1926—and consumption is merely the sequence of production. Ignoring 1926, which was a period of forced liquidation, glutted cattle markets, and heavy consumption at low prices, 1927-to-1930 slaughter figures reveal an interesting condition. These figures are compiled by the Bureau of Animal Industry, and are the only reliable yardstick, market receipts in the aggregate involving so much double counting as to be worthless. Of course, slaughter under federal inspection does not tell the whole story, as killers by the score do not operate under federal rules; but it is probable that non-inspected slaughter has diminished in even greater ratio recently, because of contraction of feeding into restricted areas, due to expansion of the dairy industry. In 1927, federally inspected slaughter during the January-to-October period figured 7,877,478 head; in 1928 it was reduced to 7,038,384; in 1929, to 6,934,594; and in 1930, to 6,873,769. This is an apparent decrease of over one million head in four years. Compared with 1926, the cut is even greater. Hog slaughter under federal inspection during the first ten months of 1927 was 35,076,413; the same period of 1930 produced aggregate figures of 35,595,374, although in 1928 this slaughter reached nearly 40,000,000 head. In the case of ovine stock—mainly lamb—the increase in federally inspected slaughter from 1927 to 1930, for the ten-month period, was 3,147,000; which merely demonstrates how readily production responds to price.

Cattle slaughter was maintained in 1929 by heavy 1928 imports from Mexico and Canada of steers that were wintered and sent into beef supply the following year. This effort will not be repeated, because it was due to energy generated by the 1928 boom; and even if cattle were needed from those supply sources, they are no longer available. This year another fortuitous circumstance swelled slaughter, the slump in butter prices stimulating culling of unprofitable milk-cows all over the country—an effort that flooded every stock-yard with canners, cutters, and low-grade beef cows selling at $3 to $4.50 per cwt., and even less; thin canning cows dropping below $3. In slaughter statistics, no differentiation is made between an old shelly cow and a 1,600-pound bullock, numbers having been maintained at the expense of tonnage. As Mexican and Canadian cattle have been cleaned up, and culling of dairy herds will be reduced to normal volume next year, slaughter figures should show further marked decrease. Guesstimates concerning the bovine population of the country are of dubious value.

In speculating on the future course of the fat-cattle market, other factors than supply must be reckoned with. Prolonged hot spells, also industrial depression, undoubtedly seriously curtailed beef distribution during the middle months of 1930. Other foods were plentiful, especially poultry and fish. When a big catch of codfish comes off the banks of Newfoundland, all New England goes on a fish diet, while big bullocks of the Boston type lie around the Chicago market a week to ten days without eliciting bids. Overnight the populace switches to beef, and cattle jump a dollar. All these influences are beyond human control, and, favorable or otherwise, are constantly developing. In the category of jobs, the man at the beef-house holds down no sinecure. If the hang-rail becomes congested with unsalable carcasses, he hears from the front office; let him run out of material to take care of the trade, and a chorus of profane protest comes from branch-house circles.

This year the commercial cattle-breeder ran into trying times. Feeders, confronted with heavy loss, took it out of his hide. The July and August low spot in stocker and feeder prices reflected the non-buying attitude of the feeder, whose position was further aggravated by impending corn-crop failure. The "dollar corn" slogan, so lustily sounded, frightened feeders out of the market, to which they did not return until well along in September; and when the dollar-corn illusion faded, they recovered a measure of courage. What that July and August gap in replacement means can only be conjectured, but it does not promise generous receipts of decently finished cattle in December and January. Probably the trade can get along on a short ration, but every week of light receipts elicits a replenishment "holler" from the beef-house, demonstrating that people are still eating beef.

Short feeding will be the rule. Even regular feeders with standard practices are inclined to order cars at the first favorable opportunity. As between short and long feeding, the former practice is decidedly superior when a profit can be taken. More money has been lost in beef-making by overstaying a good market than by anything else. Short feeding does not mean throwing a few bushels into a load of steers, then returning them to market in little better than fleshy feeder

condition, but strong feeding for 90- to 100-day periods. There is a happy medium between overdone bullocks dressing high percentages, with a surplus of inedible fat, and a blue carcass yielding 55 per cent. This year short feeders picked up all the loose money around the cattle market; long feeders lost an incalculable sum in the aggregate, which is one reason why short feeding is popular. But it is possible that, with the swing of the pendulum, heavy bullocks may command a premium at the time when they were not wanted this year. No formula is available or possible. The average feeder is ready to go to market whenever the market beckons, and every steer converted into beef means one less in the visible supply. Assuming that the bulk of the steers taken out during the past three months are forced-fed, and butchered at the earliest opportunity, a sound trading condition will be developed before long. Meanwhile a few too many short-feds may be available at frequent intervals to hold prices. There has been a pronounced disposition recently to crowd the market with warmed-up steers selling from $9 down.

With the passing of holiday trade, long-fed steers usually disappear, and for some reason or other the trade takes more readily to intermediate and low-grade steers. Western grass beef is out of the way, and the pre-winter gathering of dairy cattle has practically run its course. By the time the country has snuggled into winter quarters, a radically different deal will develop in cattle trade. The new crop will improve in condition and beef yields constantly, the spread will narrow, and low grades are liable to command more respect at buyers' hands.

During 1931 it is probable that the new cattle situation will be revealed. The 1930 run of western grass beef did not suggest supply maintenance. Said Phil Spear, the Montana operator: "The Northwest did not gather grass beef, because it was not there to gather." And that's that.

Feeders have tucked away the cheapest crop of light steers in years, and they consistently have evaded weight. Only when they send their holdings back to market will it be known if the steers were actually cheap. Low as replacement was, compared with that of recent years, their constant plaint was that investment cost was excessive, and that the only salvation of the feeding industry is cheaper cattle. Human memory is short, however, and if they run into a profitable season, they will readily forget what has happened recently. The trend of stock-cattle prices is up-grade, and if reserve stocks are anywhere near as low as generally believed, feeders will pay more money when they come back for their next set of cattle. The set now in preparation is far lighter, both numerically and in tonnage, than that of a year ago, and, as it is for sale at the earliest opportunity, replacement demand may come earlier and more vociferously than anticipated.

Killers scent what is ahead. They have been solicitous recently of information concerning the number of steers on feed, where they are, and probable time of reappearance. Only the movement through market gateways is definitely known, and in territory east of the Missouri River the direct movement from pasture to feed-lot has fallen down this year to an extent not generally understood. In 1928 and 1929 that movement attained heavy volume, deceiving both statisticians and the trade.

It is probable that present and prospective supply conditions justify the present premium on cattle, compared with hogs and lambs; otherwise it will disappear. If it is maintained, at least prima facie evidence of the strategic position of the commercial feeder will be furnished.

Whatever happens in the course of 1931 cattle-price developments, it will be in striking contrast to 1930, including values, tonnage, and character of the offering.

ST. LOUIS BOYCOTT CASE

THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE AGAINST FORTY-SEVEN "old-line" commission firms, and one co-operative, at the National Stock Yards, East St. Louis, Illinois, to show cause why their licenses should not be revoked for alleged boycott of the Producers' Live Stock Commission Association and its affiliated organization, the National Order Buying Company, came to a close on November 26, after three weeks of hearings. The voluminous testimony will now be reviewed by Secretary of Agriculture Hyde, who is empowered to issue a "cease and desist" order, or to impose a fine or jail sentence. An appeal from his decision may be taken to the federal courts.

Eight witnesses appeared for the government. The most important of these was F. G. Ketner, manager of the National Order Buying Company, who was kept on the stand for seven consecutive days and subjected to a severe cross-examination by counsel for defendants. Mr. Ketner testified that the volume of trade of his company on the East St. Louis market, which had made up about 20 per cent of the order-buying business at that place during its first week of operation, subsequently had dropped to 10 per cent, due to discriminations on the part of established commission agencies, which simply refused to deal with it. As a result, considerable money had been lost by his company. Other witnesses corroborated this testimony, quoting conversations with members of old-line firms, who without much coaxing had told of their intentions to freeze the intruder out.

Respondents, in reply, freely admitted their unwillingness to deal with the co-operatives, but insisted that they had acted purely as individuals, and that there had been no conspiracy of any kind. Their refusal they based on the grounds that, through loans to the co-operatives by the Farm Board, their own money, as taxpayers, was being used by the government—the real conspirator in the case—to destroy them; that the Producers' Association and the Order Buying Company, having interlocking directorates, in reality were one and the same organization, acting as both buyer and seller on the same market; that the complainant was in the reprehensible habit of "marking the ticket" (a practice by which the actual price paid for live stock is not determined until at the end of the day's session), and thus depressing the market by removing the animals from competitive bidding; and that the by-laws of the company provided for refunds of profits to the Producers' Live Stock Commission Company as a shareholder, contrary to the terms of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, which warranted refunds to shippers only.

As mentioned above, among the respondents is a co-operative organization—the Farmers' Live Stock Commission Company. This company had declined to join the National Live Stock Marketing Association, and had been refused Farm Board loans.

During the hearing, subpoenas for Secretary Hyde, Chairman Legge and C. B. Denman, of the Farm Board, requested by the defendants, were denied by the government examiner, J. B. Horigan.

This case is being followed with a great deal of interest throughout the country, on account of its bearing on the whole future of co-operative marketing. Both sides have tried to gain President Hoover's ear for their pleas. In a telegram to the White House, dated November 15, J. R. Fulkerson, president of the Producers' Live Stock Commission Association, declares the question at issue is the right of the farmer to market his product through his own farmer-owned and farmer-controlled agency, in line with Mr. Hoover's oft-declared policy, and that this aim is being opposed by commission men on the

St. Louis market, who have engaged in a concerted effort to drive a co-operative off their market. Replying, W. A. Moody, president of the St. Louis Live Stock Exchange, states that the accusation is "absolutely false," and that the proceedings were instituted by the Secretary of Agriculture before himself as judge, on the initiative of the Farm Board, in an "unthinkable conspiracy" to destroy the business of old-established commission men and order-buyers, and give the Farm Board a monopoly of the marketing of the country's live meat animals.

HEARINGS ENDED ON CONSENT DECREE

HEARINGS ON THE PETITIONS OF ARMOUR & CO. and Swift & Co. for modification of the Packers' Consent Decree, conducted before Justice Bailey, of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, since October 7, were concluded on November 14. The packers closed their case on November 4, and during the last ten days the government and intervening wholesale grocers, opposing modification, had their inning. December 1 was set as the day on which the court would hear oral arguments and receive written briefs.

Toward the end of the packer testimony, officials of the four companies against which the decree is operative testified, in effect, that they had no definite plans for entering the retail meat trade, if the prohibition were removed, but that they wanted a free hand in dealing with such contingencies as might develop.

A brief in support of the position of producers has been filed, as "friend of the court," by George A. Clough, attorney for the American National Live Stock Association, the National Wool Growers' Association, and the National Swine Growers' Association. Mr. Clough takes the ground that, whatever may have been the case when the decree was formulated, there is not now a monopoly by the packers in live-stock products or other food commodities. Producers of live stock need the assistance of the most efficient distributing system possible, and it is unfair to them to restrict the agencies through which their product is handled, while distributing agencies of competing foods are left unhampered. Neither, he maintains, does there exist a combination in restraint of trade, as charged by the government. Competitors of the big packers have experienced greater prosperity than defendants. If it is contended that harm to the old lines of business will result from retailing by packers, the answer, in the words of the Federal Trade Commission, is that "the public interest in the field of distribution is in the existence of the open possibility to the development of its greatest efficiency." It is therefore held that the injunction should be dissolved forbidding the defendants to engage in the retail selling of meats and other food commodities, that permission should be granted them for the unrestricted use of refrigerator cars in the distribution of these commodities, but that no modification of the decree should be made with respect to the ownership of stock-yards, where conditions today remain the same as when the decree was signed.

POLICIES OF NATIONAL GRANGE

WITH AN ATTENDANCE OF 15,000 FARMERS FROM thirty-two states, the sixty-fourth annual convention of the National Grange, held at Rochester, New York, November 12-21, 1930, is said to have been the greatest gathering of rural folks ever assembled in the United States. All the important problems facing agriculture today were discussed, and most of the resolutions passed received unanimous indorsement. One afternoon's session was devoted exclusively to the subject of co-operation.

Among the declarations of policy announced at the meeting were the following: Equality for agriculture through enactment of the export debenture plan, proper tariff adjustments, and development of co-operative marketing; support for the Farm Board; tax reform; stabilization of the value of the dollar; creation of a Bureau of Conservation, to embrace forestry, public parks, irrigation, reclamation, and water power; opposition to short selling of food products; more equitable freight rates for the farmer; enlargement of the Federal Farm Loan System; construction of farm-to-market roads and of a Great Lakes-to-ocean waterway; opposition to any modification of the differential between live stock and dressed meats, corporation farming, and the attitude of the United States Chamber of Commerce on efforts of farm groups to secure equality for agriculture through legislative enactment.

HEREFORD ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN HEREford Cattle Breeders' Association, elected at the meeting in Kansas City on November 18, is W. T. Montgomery, of San Antonio, Texas, who succeeds R. P. Lamont, Jr., of Larkspur, Colorado. Other officers who will serve during the coming year are Charles D. Carey, Cheyenne, Wyoming, vice-president; E. F. Swinney, Kansas City, Missouri, treasurer; and R. J. Kinzer, also of Kansas City, secretary.

NEW OFFICERS CHOSEN BY WOOL MARKETING ASSOCIATION

ROGER GILLIS, OF DEL RIO, TEXAS, WAS ELECTED president of the National Wool Marketing Association, in succession to L. B. Palmer, of Columbus, Ohio, at the annual stockholders' meeting in Washington, D. C., on November 18. To succeed Mr. Gillis as vice-president, James A. Hooper, of Salt Lake City, was named. J. B. Wilson, of McKinley, Wyoming, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. A number of new men were chosen for the board of directors.

The general wool-marketing situation was discussed at the meeting, and the secretary's report adopted, but not made public.

ICELESS REFRIGERATION OF MEAT

THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF ICELESS REFRIGerated meat to be transported across the country in a freight-car was recently shipped by the Hanson Packing Company, of Butte, Montana, direct to New York City. The shipment consisted of three cars—two of beef and one of lamb.

The cars used were of the new type in which a set temperature can be maintained indefinitely. Records, not only of the interior temperature, but of the miles traveled, are constantly kept by mechanisms within the car, so that the shipper, by consulting a tape at the end of the journey, can tell whether the temperature varies, and, if so, where the car was at the time of the change. He is also enabled to check delays, and the car never has to wait to be re-iced.

This new shipping method, in the opinion of the *Montana Stockgrower*, promises to effect great changes in the packing business, making it possible for western breeders to market their animals at home, instead of shipping them east.

VETERINARIANS PASS FOOT-AND-MOUTH RESOLUTION

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN Veterinary Medical Association, held in Los Angeles early last month, the following resolution was passed:

"WHEREAS, Foot-and-mouth disease and other serious infections of live stock are known to exist in many foreign countries; and

"WHEREAS, The introduction of such diseases into the United States can be avoided only through the most rigid quarantines to prevent the introduction of the viruses of such diseases; therefore be it

"*Resolved,* That the American Veterinary Medical Association, in convention assembled, does hereby petition the Secretary of Agriculture to continue to enforce such quarantines as are deemed necessary by the Chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, in order to protect our live stock from the ravages of foot-and-mouth disease and other infections."

NOVEMBER CROP REPORT

FORTY-SEVEN MILLION BUSHELS WERE ADDED TO the country's corn crop by government estimators in the report issued November 10, making the total 2,094,000,000 bushels, compared with the 2,047,000,000 bushels of the forecast for the previous month. Last year's harvest was 2,614,000,000 bushels, and the five-year average, 1924-28, 2,700,000,000 bushels. An average yield of 20.6 bushels per acre has been obtained this year, which falls considerably below the ten-year record of 28.2 bushels, but nevertheless is better than expected in view of the drought. With the carry-over, there will be around 2,170,000,000 bushels available for the season, compared with 2,694,000,000 bushels last year and a ten-year average of 2,981,000,000 bushels.

Indicated production of the chief crops now stands as below, as compared with last season's yields:

	1930	1929
Winter wheat (bu.)	597,000,000	578,000,000
Spring wheat (bu.)	242,000,000	228,000,000
All wheat (bu.)	840,000,000	806,000,000
Corn (bu.)	2,094,000,000	2,614,000,000
Oats (bu.)	1,411,000,000	1,234,000,000
Barley (bu.)	328,000,000	304,000,000
Rye (bu.)	46,700,000	40,500,000
Buckwheat (bu.)	9,400,000	11,500,000
Flaxseed (bu.)	24,200,000	16,800,000
Grain sorghums (bu.)	84,800,000	100,800,000
Potatoes (bu.)	368,000,000	360,000,000
Hay, all tame (tons)	84,100,000	101.800,000
Hay, wild (tons)	12,000,000	12,900,000
Hay, alfalfa (tons)	28,500,000	29 800,000
Sugar-beets (tons)	8,950,000	7,320,000
Cotton (bales)	14,438,000	14,828,000

Latest reports from thirty-three countries give a total world production of wheat in 1930 of 4,413,191,000 bushels, compared with 3,794,048,000 bushels in 1929. This is exclusive of South America and China, but includes Russia, where the crop this year is estimated at 1,157,400,000 bushels, as against 702,851,000 bushels harvested last year—an increase of 64.7 per cent.

WOOL CONTENT OF UNDERWEAR

SOME TIME AGO—AS A CONCESSION, NO DOUBT, TO the growing number of "truth-in-fabrics" advocates—the organization of underwear manufacturers passed a resolution intended to govern the labeling of goods. The proposed rule provides that the word "wool" shall not be used in the labeling, advertising, merchandising, or selling of knit underwear unless the percentage by weight of wool contained in the garment is stated. Garments with the percentage of their wool content named may contain not less than the stated amount, with the allowance of a tolerance of 3 per cent either way. Thus a garment in which the proportion of wool is given as 50 per cent may actually contain from 47 to 53 per cent.

The resolution has been approved by the Federal Trade Commission, and the new rule will go into effect January 1.

RANCH ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

FROM TIME TO TIME REQUESTS COME TO THE PRODUCER for help in finding a suitable accounting system for large cattle ranches. We have made inquiry of various federal and state agencies, and it would appear that very little has been done along this line. Perhaps some of our colleges which are dealing with cost-of-production problems will undertake to map out a desirable accounting system. It would facilitate the work of ranchmen and be much appreciated by those of them who are too busy to give a great deal of attention to this matter.

CHRISTMAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

INSIDE THE COVER OF THIS ISSUE YOU WILL FIND a subscription blank. It is placed there in the hope that you have a friend in the live-stock business, either in the range country or in the Corn Belt, in whom you are sufficiently interested to see that he is added to our subscription list. If you are concerned in the work of our organization, you can help in no better way than by enlisting your friends in the cause, and you will be playing Santa Claus to both them and THE PRODUCER by taking such action.

ERRATUM

In the article by Dan D. Casement, "Are Range Cattle-Breeding Methods Out of Date?" on page 9 of the November PRODUCER, an error has crept in which, however slight, changes the meaning materially. In the first sentence, referring to the article by Dr. A. F. Vass in the September number, Mr. Casement is made to say that "it contains *a* few statements to which a fair-minded reader can reasonably take strong exception." The word *a* should have been omitted. The inclusion of the indefinite article, it will readily be seen, makes the criticism less favorable to Dr. Vass than the writer intended.

THE CALENDAR

January 8-10, 1931—Annual Convention of Idaho Wool Growers' Association, Boise, Ida.

January 13-14, 1931—Annual Convention of Utah Wool Growers' Association, Salt Lake City, Utah.

January 15-17, 1931—Annual Convention of Montana Wool Growers' Association, Missoula, Mont.

January 17-24, 1931—National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.

January 22-23, 1931—Annual Convention of North Dakota Live Stock Breeders' Association, Fargo, N. D.

January 28-30, 1931—Thirty-fourth Annual Convention of American National Live Stock Association, Seattle, Wash.

March 7-15, 1931—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.

March 17-19, 1931—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Corpus Christi, Tex.

THE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY
IN THE INTEREST OF THE
LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES
BY THE
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHING COMPANY

Subscription: One Year, $1; Three Years, $2.75; Six Years, $5
Advertising Rates on Request

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO

F. E. MOLLIN - - - *Managing Editor*
LOUIS WARMING - - - - - *Editor*
JAMES E. POOLE - - - *Market Editor*
DAVID O. APPLETON - *Business Manager*

Volume XII DECEMBER, 1930 Number 7

CALL FOR CONVENTION

DENVER, COLO., December 1, 1930.

To Members of the American National Live Stock Association, Affiliated Organizations, and Stockmen Generally:

Call is hereby issued for the Thirty-fourth Annual Convention of the American National Live Stock Association, to be held at Seattle, Washington, January 28 to 30, inclusive, 1931.

Nothing could more clearly show the need for organization than the situation which developed during the year 1930. The world-wide drop in commodity values, to levels in many instances lower than the pre-war basis, brought on a chain of untoward events, with most serious consequences to live-stock producers, even though, as in the case of cattle, there was no apparent surplus of the product. Business hesitancy, increasing unemployment, lower prices for live animals, without a similar reduction in retail meat prices, all tended to increase our difficulties. One ray of light was furnished by the decreased importation of live cattle, dressed and canned beef, due to the effective working of the new tariff bill.

There is no more serious problem confronting the live-stock industry today than that of distribution, involving, as it does, not only getting the live animals to market in such volume as can readily be handled without great fluctuations in price, but also directing their finished product into consumptive channels without any unnecessary price barriers.

The uneven flow of live stock to market is partly to blame for the violent fluctuations in price, temporarily heavy receipts bringing about a depressed condition out of all proportion to the cause, and we should renew our efforts to bring about an improvement in this situation. Without question, Resolution No. 1, adopted at the meeting of the Executive Committee in Denver on August 5 and 6, 1930, urging the holding back of shipments of cattle, was instrumental in reducing supplies during the early fall marketing season, and already the wisdom of that course is evident. A distribution of range cattle over a period of four or five months, instead of two or three months, will add thousands of dollars to the stockman's bank-roll.

The past year has been notable for the progress made in agricultural co-operation, under the leadership of the Federal Farm Board. A National Live Stock Marketing Association has been set up under its auspices, and several regional member agencies have been organized. Only through united effort can the best results in orderly marketing be attained, and the American National Live Stock Association is whole-heartedly behind this endeavor, fostered by our government, to organize the different agricultural groups for effective self-help.

During the past year our Association, the National Live Stock Marketing Association, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and the Federal Farm Board have all labored to keep meat products moving into consumptive channels at prices in line with current wholesale costs. Too often temporary gluts at the markets have made necessary drastic price

declines before the product could be forced through to consumption. We must continue our efforts to get a narrower price spread and a quicker response to changes in the market.

Live-stock producers have united to demand a modification of the so-called Packers' Consent Decree, to the end that the "big four" packers may be permitted to enter the retail business, or to make satisfactory arrangements for the retailing of their product, thus insuring an adequate outlet; to the end, also, that they be allowed to handle other food products than meat, in the interest of lower costs of distribution.

The question of beef-grading is of the utmost importance to a satisfactory solution of this problem of distribution and retailing. Our Association, the three national breed associations, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, and many others have for years urged the production of better animals; but at the same time chain stores have been going into the retail meat business on an increasing scale, and in many instances have been featuring a cheap-to-medium class of beef, thus creating a market demand for this class on a basis out of proportion to its proper value compared with a better-quality product. Much work has been done in studying grades by both the packers and the government, but until a common ground is reached and a standard set of grades adopted, little can be done to insure that the consumer gets the quality of beef paid for, and thus to create a positive demand for the better grades.

The entire subject of the public domain and the Forest Service will be discussed in the light of the report by the Public Land Commission, which is expected in the near future. The growing problem of the use of desirable grazing areas by protected game animals will likewise receive attention.

Complaints have reached us of insufficient credit facilities in some sections. The fullest co-operation should be given to the new credit corporations being set up under the Agricultural Marketing Act. Nothing will come nearer insuring a fair price for feeder stock than adequate finance available to feeders at such market centers as Denver, Omaha, and Kansas City. It is equally important that the managers and directors of the Intermediate Credit Banks be not only friendly to the live-stock business, but well informed as to its needs.

Our Traffic Counsel, Charles E. Blaine, has been most active in regard to rates and regulations affecting the industry, and will present several important matters for your consideration.

The death of our beloved President, Victor Culberson, makes it necessary that an active and aggressive leader be picked for the year to come.

These and many other important matters demand and deserve your attention. We are especially desirous that those who have joined during the year should be present and learn more about our activities, and that all member associations, both state and local, be represented by as many delegates as they can arrange to send. Come and help show the people of the Northwest that you have an aggressive organization worthy of their support.

A program is being arranged that will contain much of interest in connection with the matters to be discussed. A tentative draft of this program, as well as details of railroad and hotel arrangements, will be found below. The full program will be published in the January issue.

HENRY G. BOICE,
First Vice-President.

F. E. MOLLIN,
Secretary.

SEATTLE BOUND!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS HISTORY, the American National Live Stock Association will meet in Seattle next year. The dates are January 28 to 30, 1931. This will be good news to anyone who still suffers chills at the thought of the low temperatures which prevailed during convention days at Denver a year ago. No better opportunity could be desired for combining business with pleasure than by attending this meeting in the convention city of the Northwest.

Headquarters will be at the Olympic Hotel, conveniently arranged for such occasions. Those who have no other hotel preference will find ample accommodations here, at reasonable rates—*and there will be no boosting of the rates.* Rates run from $3.50 to $5 single, and from $6 to $8 double, with every room desirable and with bath.

OLYMPIC HOTEL, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
Convention Headquarters of American National Live Stock Association

The railroads have granted a round-trip rate of one and one-half fares on the Identification Certificate plan. All you have to do is to write this office how many certificates you need, and to present these when you buy your tickets. There is no red-tape at Seattle, other than validating, the same as any other round-trip ticket.

Winter-excursion rates, which are slightly more than fare and one-half, will apply from points not covered by the special rate. (See table.)

Territory	Dates of Sale	Final Return Limit
Idaho, Oregon, and Washington	Jan. 23-29	*Feb. 3
California	Jan. 22-27	*Feb. 4
Montana, Nevada, and Utah (west of and including Ogden and Salt Lake City)	Jan. 22-27	*Feb. 4
Arizona	Jan. 21-26	*Feb. 5
New Mexico (west of and including Albuquerque) and El Paso, Texas	Jan. 20-25	*Feb. 5
North Dakota, Minnesota (west of and including St. Paul and Duluth), South Dakota (on and north of the line of the C., M., St. P. & P. R. R., Ortonville to Lemon), Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming	Jan. 21-27	*Feb. 5

From nearly all points in California, and from some points in Nevada, there will be in effect at that time sixteen-day winter excursion fares, on a basis slightly lower than our special rate. The safe thing to do is to get your identification certificates from this office at once; then, when the time comes, to find out what is the lowest rate available. No harm will be done if the certificates are not used—just so you get there.

*Return limit shown applies on tickets sold at rates of fare and one-half. Return limit for tickets at fare and three-fifths will be thirty days in addition to date of sale.

BOAT TRIP OPTIONAL

The rate will apply either via rail or via the Pacific Steamship Company boat, "Admiral Peoples." This boat leaves Wilmington (port of Los Angeles) at 11 A. M., Thursday, January 22; arrives at San Francisco at 7 P. M., January 23; leaves San Francisco at 5 P. M., January 24; and arrives at Seattle at 5 P. M., Tuesday, January 27. The return trip will be made on the steamer "Emma Alexander," which sails from Seattle at midnight, January 31; arriving at San Francisco February 3, 11 A. M.; leaving San Francisco February 4, at 3 P. M.; and arriving at Los Angeles February 5, at 5 P. M.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

The program will include addresses by James C. Stone, vice-chairman of the Federal Farm Board; ex-Senator Stanfield, of Oregon, who will speak on "The National Forests and the Public Domain;" C. A. Ewing, president of the National Live Stock Marketing Association; G. S. Swift, of Swift & Co., on "The Grading of Beef and the Development of the Package Trade;" I. W. Ringer, on "The Retailer and the Meat Industry;" E. W. Sheets, chief of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture; E. F. Forbes, president of the Western Cattle Marketing Association; H. R. Davison, of the Institute of American Meat Packers, on "Live-Stock Loss Prevention Work;" Frank Winch, president of the Pacific Coast Sportsman's Association, on "The Business Side of Sportsmanship;" and O. M. Plummer, of Portland, Oregon, on "The National Live Stock and Meat Board and Its Beef-Demonstration Work."

ADAPTING OUR MARKETING SYSTEM TO CHANGING ECONOMIC TRENDS

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK Association has always been keenly interested in the problem of marketing. It has never tried to advise shippers as to how they should dispose of their live stock, but rather has lent its efforts to keeping every avenue of marketing open and available, and to seeing that no artificial barrier was erected between the producer and the consumer.

The most striking development in recent years has been the plainly shown determination of producers to have more to do with the marketing machinery. Witness the rapid increase in the ranks of the Western Cattle Marketing Association; the formation of two strong co-operative organizations among range cattle- and sheep-growers—namely, the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association, with headquarters

at Denver, and the Texas Live Stock Marketing Association, with headquarters at Fort Worth, both of which have almost overnight become leading agencies in their respective fields; and the even more striking developments in the co-operative marketing of hogs, and to a less extent of cattle and sheep, in the Corn Belt.

It does not necessarily follow that all the people responsible for the changes which have been wrought are unequivocally opposed to the system of so-called central markets. It only means that an economic readjustment of major importance has been taking place, and that we are now beginning to recognize it as such.

Under the new order, it goes without saying that the paramount idea is to come as near matching supply to demand as practicable—something which seemed impossible of accomplishment under the old system. Agencies under the control of the producers themselves will not only be an important factor on account of the volume which they will control, but for the same reason will exercise a significant influence in stabilizing the movement to market. A factor of great consequence in bringing about dissatisfaction with the old system was the practice that grew up practically everywhere of favoring speculators as against country buyers for feeder animals. At some markets this practice was extended so that thousands of fat hogs were first sold to speculators. It has been argued that it was only fair to favor the buyer who was on the market every day; but favoritism of any sort is indefensible. The big packers, who are likewise on the market every day, do not demand any such preferred treatment, and freely compete with other buyers on the two-way type of animals, or on fat stock if necessary.

In Iowa, according to a recent article by Paul L. Miller, agricultural economist at Iowa State College, in 1920 less than one-third of the hogs were marketed direct. In 1929 approximately two-thirds were marketed direct—and this in the face of continuous assertion by commission men that anyone marketing direct was unwittingly becoming the tool of the packers in undermining market prices. The fact remains that the corn-hog ratio has been on quite a satisfactory basis in recent years, and the hog market gave a better account of itself than that of either cattle or sheep under recent trying conditions.

No system not economically sound could long survive, let alone continue to grow at the rate indicated.

The central markets reached their zenith in prewar days, when the packing industry was very much centralized. Who in the live-stock industry does not remember the enormous runs, and corresponding declines, in the market that occurred with depressing regularity? The decentralization of the packing industry following the war cannot but prove beneficial to the industry as a whole. In the past ten years independent packers in the East, in the Middle West, and at other strategic points have shown a flourishing condition. With the help of hard roads and good trucks, they are absorbing the live stock produced locally within an increasing radius, and are sending additional orders to market centers and concentration points, thus stimulating the market and creating a healthy competitive condition. For the same reason (hard roads and good trucks), they are able better and more economically to distribute their finished product.

Live-stock producers, organized as never before, are keenly alive to the situation, and will continue their efforts to improve conditions. They will market their live stock as economic conditions justify, having always in mind more even distribution and fewer days of excessive runs, with the consequent flying of bargain-day banners.

GRADING LIVE STOCK AND MEATS

IN 1916 THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE Stock Association requested the Secretary of Agriculture to make reports of the receipts of live stock at market centers, and the prices thereon. This service was inaugurated in 1918, and, by diligent effort on the part of those in charge, has come to be very dependable and of great value to shippers. Aside from its original purpose of furnishing unbiased reports as to receipts and prices, the chief accomplishment of the service has been in standardizing quotations on similar classes of live stock as between markets. Prior to its establishment there was a difference of as much as $2 or $3 a hundred pounds in prices paid for steers, similarly designated, at different markets. It was found that great latitude was taken in making the descriptions, and hence it was very difficult to gauge the market at competitive points by means of the reports sent out. Today a shipper can come much closer to determining the best market for his live stock by a study of these reports.

The next step of interest was the study of meat grades. The Bureau of Markets made some progress in this matter, and soon found that it was practicable, and in fact desirable, to correlate such grades closely with the grades of live animals. In the early stages of this study, no thought had been given to the question of stamping the grade on the dressed product. Soon after the close of the war, the bureau made a national survey of the retail meat business. James Christensen, now western supervisor for the Packers and Stock-Yards Administration, was in charge of the northwestern division of this investigation. His

study of the situation led him to recommend the grading and stamping of beef in his report, and to advocate it at meetings of live-stock growers. O. M. Plummer, of Portland, was the first to give him much encouragement, and later the American National Live Stock Association, the National Live Stock and Meat Board, the Better Beef Association, and other organizations lent their support. The government grading and stamping project was started in May, 1927. Shortly thereafter several of the large packers inaugurated a private stamping service.

So much for the history of the movement to date. Much of the work done by the government officials has been in the coolers of the large packers. The government men have consulted with the heads of the beef departments in bringing the work to its present state. This is as it should be, and much credit is due to all, whether government or packer employees, for the progress made. Developing a satisfactory system for grading beef is no child's play, and nothing short of the fullest co-operation between those interested in the welfare of the industry will suffice.

But what of the future? We learn that the Institute of American Meat Packers has had committees working on meat grades, and that very shortly these grades will be announced to the members of the Institute, with "complete instruction on how to put this grading scheme into effect at your plant, if you so desire."

We are advised that this system contemplates nine grades of each type of beef, as against the seven official grades worked out by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, *after consulting with the packers.* Already buyers for some of the big packers are basing their price for the live animal on the grade of beef they expect from the carcass. Each day's purchases are studied in the carcass, and thus buying efficiency is improved.

THE PRODUCER has never believed there was room for a dual system of stamping beef, although recognizing that there are serious obstacles to overcome in perfecting a single system. It believes, however, that a dual system of grades for live animals and the product therefrom is much more objectionable. We have reached a point in our development where the good of the industry should always be placed above any other consideration. The greatest example of industry co-operation was furnished recently in the united demand for modification of the Packers' Consent Decree. We believe that this subject of grading calls for the same kind of co-operation; that packer buyers should not be operating with grade standards in mind different from those used by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in reporting the sales; and that the individual members of the Institute should not put into effect a grading system different from the standards worked out by the government. Eventually this would mean the failure of the government project of beef-stamping, which deserves better support than it has had thus far.

Even though the dual system of stamping beef be continued until further light can be thrown on the subject, we urge the Institute of American Meat Packers to co-operate with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in working out a single standard of grades for live animals, and the dressed product therefrom, that will best serve the needs of the industry. The interest of producers in this matter is so great that they will do all in their power to facilitate the finding of a common ground.

CUTTING DOWN PRODUCTION

LINKED WITH THE ORGANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE on a basis that will make the producer himself a factor in determining the manner of marketing his products, which is the object of the Agricultural Marketing Act, is the problem of maintaining a healthy balance between supply and demand. Manufacturers long ago discovered the importance of adjusting their output to consumer requirements. Agriculture still has its lesson to learn.

Circumstances, of course, are different. Not only are farmers our largest and most widely diffused group of producers, making it difficult to organize them effectively for united action, or even to reach each individual with the same information or the same appeal at the same time; but their rate of turnover is so much slower. A brewer in Milwaukee may change from 4 to ½ per cent beer, and back again, overnight, just as the manufacturer of women's apparel can add three inches to the length of skirts on receipt of the first word from Paris. But the wheat-farmer who sows in the fall does not harvest until the following summer—when he *must* garner his crop; and the stockman who breeds his cows this season cannot start shipping their offspring to market until at least a year from now. While waiting for their crops to mature, these food-producers can neither take advantage of upturns nor curtail their output in response to recessions. Once started, the circle has to be completed. Nor are the majority of them situated so that they can hold on to their crops indefinitely, on the theory that people must eat, and that what they do not buy today they will buy tomorrow, even if they have to pay more.

That the only way to avoid recurring trouble from surpluses is to keep production down to domestic needs is an axiom which now is being dinned into the ears of our farmers by Chairman Legge, of the Farm Board, among others. The latest contribution to the reduction propaganda is a circular entitled "Grow

Less—Get More," in which the Farm Board quotes figures to prove its point that returns to the producer have been the greatest when crops were the smallest. The table looks like this:

Year	Crop (Bushels)	Farm Price per Bushel	Farm Value	Cash Income
1928	463,000,000	$0.66	$288,000,000	$185,000,000
1924	420,000,000	.76	312,000,000	200,000,000
1927	403,000,000	1.11	448,000,000	302,000,000
1926	354,000,000	1.40	496,000,000	320,000,000
1925	321,000,000	1.66	532,000,000	337,000,000

The crop in question is potatoes, but, it is averred, the maxim has general application to all manner of farm products—live stock included.

This crop-reduction advice may be sound enough—in theory. The trouble with it, however, is that, to make it fully operative, it would have to be pretty generally adopted. And universal acceptance can be accomplished only through some sort of compulsion. In every community and every group there will always be found the critic and the doubter who prefer to "wait and see;" there will always be found those who are anxious to feather their own nest at the expense of their fellows, and who in this case would refuse to "join," hoping to reap the benefit on their own undiminished crops of the price rise brought about by the reductions practiced by their neighbors.

Then, too, there is the little fellow. The man planting a thousand acres to wheat, or raising a thousand lambs, may afford to cut down his output by 10 per cent; but how about the struggler who depends for his living on what he can wrest from a few acres or a small band of sheep?

Another factor to be reckoned with is that of special fitness. Certain regions are best adapted—some of them almost exclusively adapted—for one particular crop. The farmers of these regions have been raising little else for a century, perhaps, and could not change to another form of production, even in part, without great hardship and initial loss. To Mr. Legge's admonition to the farmers of Kansas to grow less wheat, the governor of that state replied, in effect: "Wheat is the only crop for which we and our lands are suited. Let those who can diversify do the reducing." A similar answer would undoubtedly be forthcoming from the stockmen of the range states, if asked to switch to grain or fodder crops.

As THE PRODUCER sees it, little can be accomplished along the line of systematically balancing production to a shifting demand by individual, sporadic, haphazard curtailment. It takes mass movement to make reforms of that kind effective. And since governmental compulsion in this sphere is out of the question, the only way left open is that of moral suasion—which means organization.

Only through close-knit organization can the necessary perspective be gained that will insure intelligent, purposeful action. Only through organization—its loyalties, its personal contacts, its *esprit de corps*—can the pressure be brought to bear which must supplant coercion from without.

Unless you are one of the few well-to-do or unusually successful individuals who maintain that there is no agricultural problem, if you recognize the dangers of blind production, with no regard to possible demand, your first step is to join your local or state association, and through that to become affiliated with the national organization which represents your particular field, and which is tackling the problem with more energy than has ever been applied before.

William Pollman

WILLIAM POLLMAN, VICE-PRESIDENT of the American National Live Stock Association, died at a hospital in Portland, Oregon, on October 23. For several years he had been in failing health, which compelled him a year ago to relinquish the office of first vice-president, that position, in view of President Culberson's enforced inactivity, entailing a greater tax on his energies than his weakened constitution could meet. In him the association has lost a faithful member and the live-stock industry a loyal champion.

* * *

The following tribute has been submitted by William Duby, secretary of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon—a fellow-townsman of the deceased:

William Pollman was noted for his fair dealing. At the same time, he was very exacting in a business way. He took a special interest in the live-stock industry and stock-producers in general. He was what might be called the principal founder of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, giving liberally of his time and money to that organization, and being its president for several years. For the past ten years he had also been vice-president of the American National Live Stock Association, in whose affairs he took an active part until ill-health prevented further activities.

Starting with no other assets than his energy and ability to do things, Mr. Pollman rose to a strong position in the financial world and became recognized by the leading financiers of the country. No one, I think, ever went to him with a worthy business proposition who did not get an attentive hearing. He was ever ready to do his share in all civic affairs. The people of Baker County and the State of Oregon mourn his passing.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

THE FOOD FADDIST AGAIN

To the swelling volume of protests against the anti-meat literature with which the public is constantly being bombarded by so-called health schools, pseudo-scientists, vegetarian propagandists, and men financially interested in the promotion of other food products, is now added the voice of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture R. W. Dunlap. In a letter to James Howarth, of the Glendale Sanitarium, Glendale, California (the same institution from which emanated the article criticized in the November issue of THE PODUCER), Mr. Dunlap writes:

"WASHINGTON, D. C., November 6, 1930.

"*Mr. James Howarth,*
"*Glendale Sanitarium,*
"*Glendale, Cal.*

"DEAR SIR: My attention has been called to the spring and summer numbers of your little bulletin, entitled *Health Exponent,* in which issues you condemn the use of meats.

"I feel certain that the publication of such articles is doing the farmers some injury, but the greatest damage is being done to the consuming public.

"I am one of those who do not believe in extremes in food habits. A balanced ration, in my opinion, is necessary for good health, unless, of course, the patient is sick. I see the health of so many people ruined by following food faddists that it is becoming alarming, and if this food-fad propaganda continues, it may be necessary to have legislation enacted to protect the public.

"Among my own acquaintances I can number many who have been advised not to use meat, and to cut out white bread and confine their diet to certain foods, and their health has been greatly injured, and in some cases permanently. Others, who have been advised to diet for this, that, and the other reason, have also been injured.

"Within the last month a cousin of mine, who has followed this food fad of eating only such foods as are non-fattening and non-strengthening, had a miscarriage, and the doctor attributed this to the lack of nourishing food.

"It is certainly strange how our ancestors were able to live such long and healthy lives when their foods were composed largely of meats and bread.

"My grandmother, who recently died at the age of 106, had meat three times a day until she was about 100 years of age, and she had wonderful health until she was 104, when she broke a bone which led to her death two years later. I have no knowledge of her ever having a doctor until she was past 100 years old and could not prevent a doctor being inflicted upon her.

"My father, who is now eighty-seven years of age, is well and active—rides horseback every day in looking after his business, drives an automobile, and travels to your state about every other year; and he is now, and always has been, a meat-eater.

"I do not want to leave the impression that I do not believe in scientific experimentation along this line; but I think a much better test could be made if a few thousand people were to be questioned concerning their diet, and then determine whether the meat-eaters of this number were healthier or less healthy than those who did not eat meat. This kind of a test would be worth while, and certainly more conclusive than a very few individuals selected for laboratory purposes.

"In conclusion, may I say that in my opinion there are two persons injured by not using meat as a part of their diet, where one is injured because he does use meat; and I feel very certain that, if the proper check-up could be made, my position would be sustained in this matter.

"Very truly yours,

"R. W. DUNLAP,
"*Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.*"

BRANDING AND DEHORNING

OAKLAND, CAL., November 26, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

Not long ago I happened along where a cowman was branding and dipping about 300 steers. With the equipment he was using, I have never seen cattle get so much abuse. Any cowman with any experience knows that poor branding is expensive. There are many who never acquire the art of handling a branding-iron, and, I might add, will never learn the proper way to brand cattle.

I will give my opinion of the proper way to brand. First, it is impossible for one to hold a hot iron against an animal that is not held secure. Next, as we all know, irons are heated by means of fire; and, as the handle of the iron will get hot, in order to handle it properly, without burning the hand, it is necessary for one to have a pad or folded sack to hold it. Taking the ring in the end of the handle in the right hand, with a pad in the left hand, take hold of the handle about two-thirds of the way down. With the left hand so extended, a man has better control, preventing the iron from slipping and making a blotched brand.

If the animal is standing or lying down, begin by placing the top of the letter, or whatever brand is used, against the animal. Hold this point for a second; then begin bringing the rest of the iron surface down against the hide, until the lower end of the iron touches. By doing this, you make an equal burn the full length of the iron. The man who takes a hot iron and holds it in one position does not take into consideration the curvature of the animal. He will cook the hide in one place, and not burn it enough at the top and bottom, thus causing the brand to blur as it heals.

The length of time to burn a brand properly depends on the degree of heat of the iron. An iron can be too hot; yet it is better to have it too hot than not hot enough. The best heat is white, not red. By keeping your iron at an even heat, you can time yourself better. An extra-hot iron is harder to keep from slipping.

The face of a properly made iron should be oval, with no square edges. Ninety-nine per cent of blacksmiths do not know how an iron should be made; and why should they? True, a lot of them can make nice letters, but they are prone to make a flat, narrow face, with square edges. My way of having an iron made that will last a long time, will leave a clean, clear brand to read, and will show at all times, is to have the iron made in a wedge or keystone shape.

Dehorning is as much abused as branding. To do the job properly, one should first get the animal in a secure position, avoiding being in a hurry. Stand the cattle to be dehorned in a pen overnight, without feed or water. Ordinarily those dehorning do the job in one minute. To give the animal the proper care, it should take from three to five minutes. Have good saws or good dehorners, and have them in good shape. Keep them in a disinfecting solution while not in use.

Shaping the head is a great advantage to the beauty and sale of the animal when in a sale-ring. A great many men who dehorn do not get the proper shape, due to not taking off enough in front. Hunt up some old, dry head with the horns on; saw the right horn off, and then the left; and you will see that the fulness taken off in the right horn will give the head an oval shape. By cutting the left horn square, you will notice that the fulness remains, leaving a badly shaped head. Dehorning poor, run-down cattle is a mistake. Wait until they are in good condition.

If I wanted to take the horns off poor old cows, I would cut them off about two inches from the head. By standing the cows in a pen overnight, they will not bleed much. In extremely cold weather, or when flies are bad, take some cheese-cloth and cut it into pieces about six inches square. With some tape, wrap the cloth around the horn once. Place one corner of the cheese-cloth on the tape and wrap once; then pull the other corners down over the horn, and wrap the tape around two more times. You will find this a profitable way of dehorning old, poor, and weak cows.

J. C. YOKUM.

HIGH FINANCE

EL CENTRO, CAL., November 19, 1930.

TO THE PRODUCER:

From recent communications, I take it that you are having trouble in financing your magazine. It seems to me that the best way to put the paper on a sound financial basis would be to double the subscription price, making it $2 a year instead of $1. No old subscriber would object to paying $2 for what I consider the best and most reliable source of information regarding the greatest industry in the country—the live-stock business. The paper would be cheap at $2 a year to any man who is interested in live stock.

J. H. CAMPBELL.

* * *

[The method suggested by Mr. Campbell, in such flattering terms, for increasing our revenue has occurred to others. We have been slow to take action along this line. There are always a certain number, even among the proverbially liberal stockmen, who consider $1 a year a sufficient price for any periodical, no matter how good it may be, and who would rather go without than pay more. Then, too, the present time, when a dollar takes on the dimensions of a cart-wheel, would hardly be a propitious one for a change of this kind. We fear that we should lose more than we gained. Rather, we are centering our attention on building up our subscription list, making THE PRODUCER accessible to an ever wider circle of readers, and in this way offering a stronger appeal to advertisers.

However, we are open to conviction. If urged persistently enough by a large enough number, we will not say that at some time in the future we may not accede to the request.—EDITOR.]

"I think THE PRODUCER is the best paper of its kind that I have come in contact with. After reading it, I pass it on to my neighbors."—H. L. RAMSAY, Deming, N. M.

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS

Arizona

ADAMANA, ARIZ., November 13, 1930.

Range is good here. Stock is fat. Steers are all sold, at $6.50 for horned and $6.75 for dehorned ones.

JOHN JONES.

* * *

California

JULIAN, CAL., December 1, 1930.

We are having lots of rain and not much cold. Cattle and feed are both fine.

B. F. MOORE.

* * *

Colorado

GRAND JUNCTION, COLO., November 22, 1930.

We are trying to ship just as few cattle as possible, hoping to have a better market next year. There is abundant feed for carrying stock through the winter. Cattle mostly are in strong hands; still it is necessary to sell some to avoid overcrowding the range next summer.

THOMAS C. CURRIER.

* * *

CARLTON, COLO., November 23, 1930.

The blizzard of November 19 caused some loss of cattle and sheep; but fortunately it was not very cold. Had it been, loss of life to humans and live stock would have been terrible.

There is plenty of feed for stock in the Arkansas Valley this winter. Grass is of very poor quality. There is much less live stock on hand than usual.

M. J. MCMILLIN.

* * *

Montana

SIDNEY, MONT., November 19, 1930.

Live stock has been doing well here after we got the late summer rains, and the fall has been really nice so far.

ANDREW SIMONSON.

* * *

MILES CITY, MONT., November 23, 1930.

Conditions here are a little below normal, but the winter so far has been favorable—just enough snow, as water was short and water-holes soon freeze to bottom. Everyone has plenty of feed to winter.

DALE WILDER.

* * *

Utah

ANTIMONY, UTAH, November 22, 1930.

Cattle and sheep did very well here the past summer. We had more rain than usual, and range conditions are much improved. We keenly feel the depression that is sweeping the country, and especially so with present cattle prices and high taxes. Cows are selling for $4.25 to $4.50, heifers for $5.50, and steers for $6 per cwt. Some cattle-growers who feel able prefer to hold over the winter and take a chance on better prices in the spring.

HOMER C. THOMPSON.

* * *

Wyoming

ROCK RIVER, WYO., November 29, 1930.

Cattle are in excellent condition in this locality. Plenty of hay and grass for a normal winter.

T. B. DODGE.

OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

BY CHARLES E. BLAINE

Traffic Counsel, American National Live Stock Association

Decisions of Interstate Commerce Commission

NO. 21337, J. J. LANE v. A.,T. & S. F. RY. CO. ET AL.: The commission in its order dated November 3, 1930, directs defendants to pay complainant reparation in the amount of $1,588.20. This case was reported in THE PRODUCER for January this year. It involved the rates on feeder cattle from certain points in Arizona and New Mexico to certain destinations in New Mexico and Texas.

No. 17000, Part 2 (Western Trunk Line Class Rates): The carriers, in their petition for reopening, reconsideration, and modification of the commission's decision, state that, even though the increase in revenue to Western Trunk Line carriers resulting from this decision would range from $10,000,000 to $12,000,000 annually, as estimated by commission officials, such an increase would fall far short of the needs of the carriers involved. They further state that, from a study made by the carriers, the increase in revenue will not even reach the figures estimated by the commission. The rates involved in this decision are scheduled to become effective January 1, 1931. The Denver Chamber of Commerce, the Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, and the Colorado Manufacturers' and Merchants' Association, among others, asked the commission to deny the carriers' petition for a reopening and reconsideration of this case.

No. 6637 (Finance): The application of the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Companies for authority to acquire the property of the Union Belt Railway of Oakland, California, has been denied by the commission, because it believes that the price of $150,000 proposed to be paid by the carriers for this property is too high. In No. 6508 (Finance) the commission heretofore denied the application of the Western Pacific to acquire this line. The line involved is less than one mile long.

No. 17000, Part 7 (Western Grain Case): The commission has denied the various petitions submitted to it for modification, reconsideration, or rehearing. Therefore, the reduced grain rates are scheduled to become effective January 1, 1931, unless the commission grants further time, or the courts enjoin the commission's order in litigation, as it is understood that the carriers are contemplating taking the case to the courts.

No. 21513, Bodine & Clark Live Stock Commission Co. v. G. N. Ry.: The defendant has petitioned the commission for reconsideration or argument before the entire commission. This case was reported in the October PRODUCER, and involved the carrier's refusal to accept and transport, in accordance with its tariffs, shipments of live stock at Fort Browning, Montana, for movement westbound. The commission held that such practice was unlawful.

No. 3468 (I. & S.), rules governing weighing live stock and allowances at points on the Southern Pacific in Arizona and New Mexico; also El Paso, Texas: The commission found that the proposed rules were not justified, and ordered the suspended schedules canceled.

Court Decisions

In St. Louis & S. F. Ry. Co. v. Slade, 291 Pac. 107, the Supreme Court of Oklahoma held that it is the duty of a common carrier of live stock, which provides pens and loading facilities, which it invites and requires shippers to use, to maintain these facilities in a reasonably safe condition for the purpose intended. Likewise, it is the duty of a railroad company to furnish shippers of cattle and hogs with cars that are free from contagious diseases. If it fails to do so, it is liable for the loss caused thereby. Further, it is held that a letter to the initial carrier setting forth claim for damages to cattle and hogs injured in transit, and demanding proof of nonliability, was a sufficient compliance with the statute.

In Texas and N. O. R. Co. v. Conn., 30 S. W. (2d) 939, the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas (Galveston) held that the petition of complainants alleging that the railroads roughly, carelessly, and recklessly handled cattle was insufficient to prove the allegations.

The petition, which showed that the shipment was en route for forty-eight hours and moved over four different railroads, a distance of approximately 400 miles, was vague and indefinite, in that it did not apprise defendant railroads how they roughly, carelessly, and recklessly handled the cattle, and where the negligent acts were committed. The court further stated that negligence was not to be presumed from proof of the cattle's good condition when received and injured condition when delivered, even where the shipper's caretaker accompanied the shipment.

Freight Bureau Dockets

No. 11753 (Trans-Continental Freight Bureau): Shipper requests the establishment of double-deck car rates on hogs from the Middle West (particularly Minnesota) to California.

New Tariffs Filed with Commission

C., R. I. & P., I. C. C. No. C-12016, canceling I. C. C. No. C-11703, has been filed with the commission to become effective December 26, 1930. This tariff covers rates on live stock between Chicago, the Missouri River, etc., and stations in New Mexico.

G. N. Ry., I. C. C. No. A-6824, canceling I. C. C. No. A-6114, has been filed with the commission, effective November 20, 1930. Said tariff covers rates on live stock on the Oregon Trunk Railway to stations on the Great Northern Railway in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin; also Denver, the Missouri River, Chicago, and St. Louis.

Northern Pacific, I. C. C. No. 8822, canceling No. 8822, effective November 19, 1930, is a new tariff on live stock from

stations in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho to stations in Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Miscellaneous

The Interstate Commerce Commission, through Chairman McManamy, has replied to the statement submitted in behalf of the Association of Western Railway Executives as to the revenue situation of the western railroads. The chairman said the commission noted that the purpose of submitting the statement was not to affect the decision of any pending cases before it, as, "of course, any such matters must be considered and passed upon by us upon the records in those proceedings, conformably with the law and settled practice of the commission." He further stated that the carriers' statement was simply to bring concrete facts to the attention of the commission, and that they might have consideration in its administration of the duties which Congress had directed the commission to discharge. Quoting further from the commission's reply, in part the commission stated:

"The matters to which you have directed our attention are important, and are such that we have borne and will bear them in mind for appropriate consideration in the administration of the act. The statement makes no suggestion as to any action by us deemed by you to be feasible to relieve the revenue situation of the western railroads, or legally necessary in the premises. Should such requests be presented, they will be given earnest and prompt consideration."

IMPORTANT NOTICE

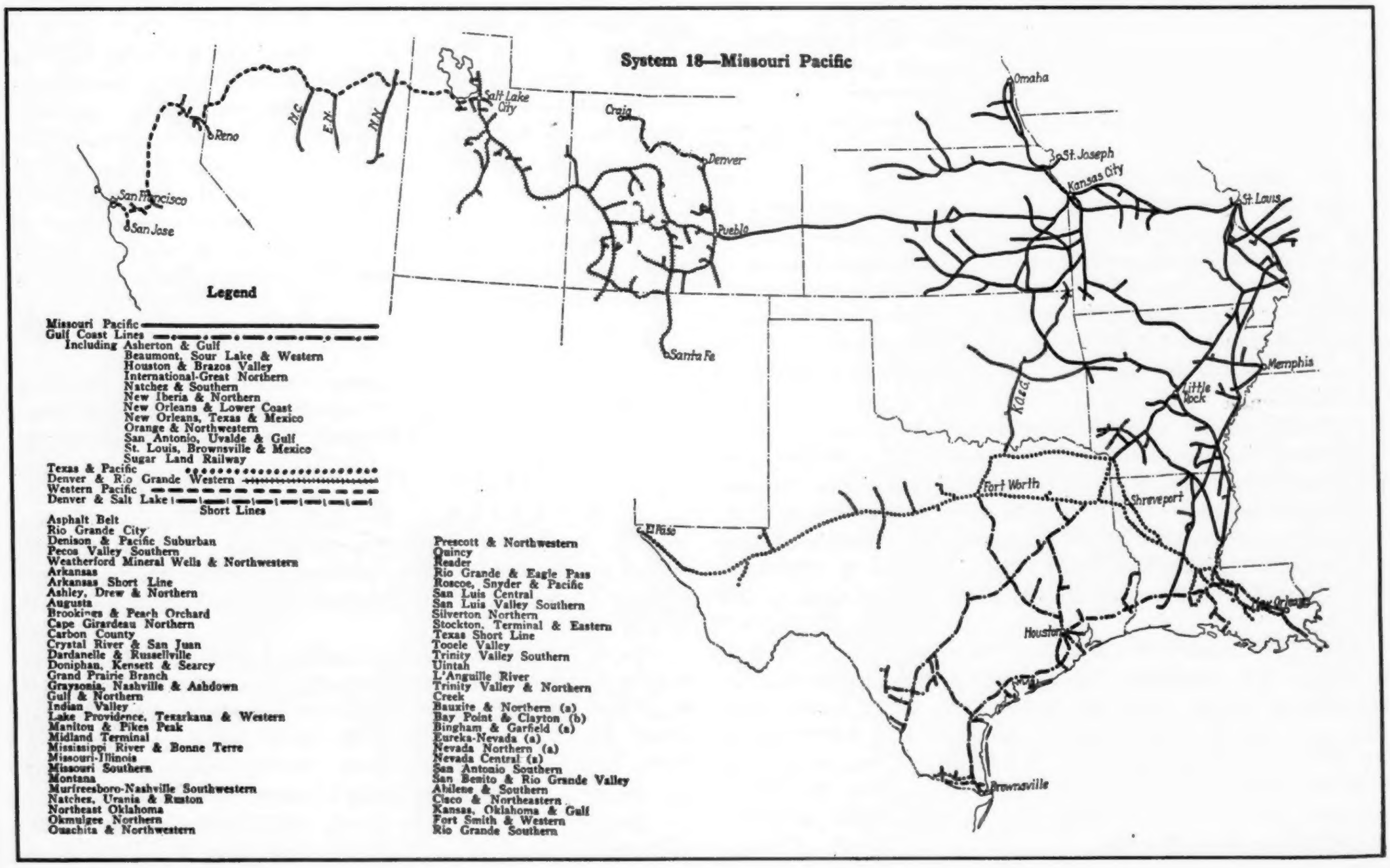
STOCKMEN LOCATED ON THE OREGON SHORT LINE Railroad in Utah, Brigham and north (main and branch lines); all main and branch-line stations in Idaho; Montana stations south of Butte to the Idaho state line, and Wyoming stations, Granger and west, who have made shipments of cattle to Los Angeles since January 1, 1926, on which they have paid the freight or borne the freight charges, are interested in a complaint just filed by the Woodward-Bennett Packing Company et al. with the Interstate Commerce Commission. The complaint assails the rates as being excessive and unreasonable, and seeks reparation on such shipments.

To protect your interest in the outcome of this suit, you should intervene. If you do not have the original paid freight-bills, you can secure them by writing the commission firm which handled your shipment. If you desire our traffic counsel to represent you, send these original freight-bills to this office.

If a sufficient number of shippers intervene, the commission would probably order the hearing for a central point, such as Salt Lake City; otherwise the hearing will be at Los Angeles.

RAILWAY CONSOLIDATION

IN THE PLAN PROPOSED BY THE INTERSTATE COMmerce Commission for merging the railroads of the country into nineteen large systems (twenty-one if the two Canadian lines having connections in the United States are included), System 18 is grouped around the Missouri Pacific, from which it takes its name. This line starts at St. Louis and runs west to Pueblo, Colorado, with branches into Arkansas and Louisiana. At Pueblo it connects with the Denver & Rio Grande Western, carrying the system on to Salt Lake City, where it is continued in the Western Pacific, with its terminal at San Francisco. Texas is crossed in its whole breadth by another road in this group, the Texas & Pacific, between New Orleans and El Paso, the eastern half of the state being served by the Gulf Coast Lines. A large number of local feeder lines complete the system.



WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

CONGRESS RECONVENES

WITH THE OPENING OF THE LAST SESSION OF the Seventy-first Congress on December 1, the attention of the country is centered on what it proposes to do to relieve the economic depression, especially the unemployment situation. Temporary suspension of all immigration has been suggested, and a bill to that effect may be introduced. A public-building, road-construction, and inland-waterway program on a large scale is being framed, and undoubtedly much work already under way will be pushed.

Special assistance to agriculture is crystallizing in the form of proposals for legislation that will provide loans for seed, fertilizer, live-stock feed, and other purposes in the case of regions badly affected by last summer's drought. An understanding is reported to have been reached between Chairman Legge, of the Federal Farm Board, and leaders of the three great farmers' organizations (L. J. Taber, of the National Grange; S. H. Thompson, of the American Farm Bureau, and C. E. Huff, of the Farmers' Union), called to Washington late last month for a conference with the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. According to this agreement, full support will be placed behind the administration's effort to prevent amendment of the Agricultural Marketing Act at the present session. Indorsement of the Farm Board's wheat-buying activities is also said to have been obtained. Much will depend upon the attitude of the two agricultural committees. Chairman McNary, of the Senate committee, is presumed to be in favor of letting the Farm Board alone until its scheme of stabilizing wheat prices has been given sufficient time to prove its permanent value. Little opposition is also expected to the plan of placing the remaining half of the authorized $500,000,000 at the disposal of the board. Whether the combination is strong enough to head off any attempt at reviving the export-debenture and equalization-fee issues, which still have strong backing in the Senate, remains to be seen.

With the appropriation bills demanding attention, the old Muscle Shoals controversy being booked for another inning, the no less explosive prohibition problem forging to the front, the question of our adherence to the World Court inviting a new flow of oratory, and an extraordinarily large number of "lame ducks," shot in the wing at the November election, intoning their swan songs for the benefit of posterity, the short session promises to be, not only a busy, but a vociferous one. It is possible that the large volume of important matters awaiting action may not have been got rid of by March 4, on which date the session automatically ends. In that case an extra session seems inevitable, in spite of President Hoover's known opposition to this plan. The new Congress will not ordinarily meet until December, 1931—thirteen months after its election—when we shall have the unique spectacle of the two parties being almost evenly divided in both houses.

FEDERAL FARM BOARD BUYS MORE WHEAT

LAST MONTH THE GRAIN STABILIZATION CORPORATION again entered the wheat market, buying freely on the Chicago Board of Trade for December delivery. This action, in the words of Mr. Legge, had become necessary "in order to stop the panicky selling and to prevent further unwarranted declines in domestic prices." As a result, the downward trend was checked, and it was freely admitted on all sides that a crash had been averted. A price of 73 cents a bushel on December wheat was established at Chicago, in the face of continued drops at grain centers in Canada and Europe which at one time sent prices down to the lowest point in twenty-five years. By pegging the domestic price above the world level, the tariff of 42 cents a bushel spontaneously became operative. The Stabilization Corporation is now holding more than 100,000,000 bushels of wheat, or practically our whole export surplus, of which 10,000,000 bushels are in December futures. It is understood that the corporation will continue its buying policy, if necessary to prevent further declines, but that no attempt will be made to advance prices.

* * *

An increase in the tariff on corn from 25 to 37½ cents a bushel has been recommended by Chairman Legge, under the flexible clause of the Tariff Act, which empowers the President to raise or lower import duties by 50 per cent. Such an increase, Mr. Legge thinks, would be necessary to cover the spread between Argentine and United States prices.

* * *

December 1 a branch office of the Farmers' National Grain Corporation was opened at Los Angeles. Besides being of assistance to producers in California in marketing their own grain—principally barley—the new branch will represent the office in Omaha, Denver, Kansas City, and the far Northwest in handling the large amounts of wheat and coarse grains shipped into California from these territories.

* * *

A field research unit has been established by the Farmers' National Grain Corporation, to be operated as part of the loan division. The principal function of the unit will be to coördinate the financial operations of the corporation and its stockholders.

* * *

To succeed Louis Vinke, who has resigned as manager of the Intermountain Live Stock Marketing Association, with headquarters at Denver, C. N. Arnett has been named. Mr. Arnett—who, like Mr. Vinke, hails from Montana—has hitherto held the office of president of the association, and will henceforth combine the two positions. Mr. Vinke has been appointed to a professorship in the Montana State Agricultural College at Bozeman.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

TENTATIVE PROPOSALS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE been agreed upon by the Committee on the Conservation and Administration of the Public Domain. The final report, to be submitted in January, according to newspaper dispatches, will represent a compromise between the positions of the government and the western states, and will embody the following principles:

Power to be given the President and Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the states, at the states' request, to provide for the transfer of the public domain to the states.

A survey to be made by federal and state representatives, to determine government needs for forest preserves, parks, national monuments, power sites, fuel supplies, etc.

State administration and policing of the acreage, and recognition of states' methods of range control.

Completion of the survey of all public lands by the government.

Control of national resources by the government during the transition period, to prevent undue upsets.

Continuance of the present method of disposing of revenues from oil and gas leases.

Sale of power developed upon reclamation projects to repay costs of the reclamation, and division of later income into 10 per cent for the government, 37½ per cent to the states, and 52½ per cent to the reclamation fund.

Provision by Congress for a farm relief fund to repay irrigation districts through loans on the basis of appraised lands.

Continuance by the government of the federal highway program on a more equitable basis for states with great areas, but of small population.

Recognition of state sovereignty in dealing with control, development, and utilization of resources, with the assistance of the government where more than one state is involved.

PROGRESS OF GOVERNMENT BEEF-GRADING

DURING THE THREE YEARS AND A HALF IN which government grading and stamping of beef has been in operation, the service has undergone continued expansion, in the sense that the end of each year has recorded a gain. In the month of October, 1930, the amount of beef labeled was 5,830,866 pounds, which is the highest total hitherto reached. As stated in our August number, four grades are now being stamped by the government—Prime, Choice, Good, and Medium. Grading is at present conducted in eleven cities, two—St. Louis and Detroit—having recently been added to the original nine. Four more—Buffalo, Sioux City, Wichita and Arkansas City, Kansas—are scheduled to be provided with the service in the near future.

An innovation is the grading and stamping of lamb, lately inaugurated at Detroit. It is planned in time to extend this service to all points where beef is being labeled.

Officials of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in charge of the work, report increasing popularity of the service.

HOG-CHOLERA WARNINGS ISSUED

WARNINGS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT BY THE Department of Agriculture that conditions this fall are favorable for an extensive outbreak of hog cholera, partly as a result of the drought, which caused a scarcity of food and water, and partly because comparatively few hogs have been immunized against the disease this year, owing to the depleted funds of the farmers. Hog-owners are urged to watch their herds, and to remember that there is no known cure for hog cholera, once it has developed, but that the disease may be prevented by immunizing well hogs.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN NOVEMBER

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., December 1, 1930.

RECENT CATTLE-MARKET GYRATIONS HAVE SURpassed all human understanding. Responsibility has been passed up to the well-known law of supply and demand. Vicissitude has clustered around the group of long-fed steers weighing 1,300 to 1,700 pounds; but, while they have slumped severely during periods of excessive supply, the moment supply pressure has been relaxed, values have climbed in spectacular manner. Big bullocks that dropped to a $9 to $10.50 basis on the mid-November low spot climbed to $10.50 to $12 in less than a week. All of which goes to show that the trade can always absorb a modicum of heavy beef, but gags at taking on an additional ton. Late in November heavy cattle discredited all previous prophecy by getting into the $13 scale, 1,400-pound steers reaching $13.35, and even the short-fed type joining the procession. A market that can swing $1 to $1.50 per cwt. in both directions within a few days is obviously in need of a stabilizer. One week the wail from the beef-house is that heavy beef cannot be moved; the next week buyers for the same beef-house ride their horses lame in frantic effort to fill orders. Blame may be definitely placed on two doorsteps: feeders who overload in response to upturns, and beef-distributors who "lay out" of the cattle market until the hang-rail is empty, putting themselves under the necessity of buying for numbers, regardless of quality. There is much bad buying at the market, and probably always will be, that condition being aggravated by the leash on which the beef-house holds the cattle-buyer. In other days, cattle-buyers were given leeway, their judgment in such emergencies being of value to the house. Under new conditions, they obey orders explicitly or walk the plank, the beef man being supreme. The latter, of course, is amenable to discipline from the front office, and is ready to throw a fit on the slightest provocation. Present cattle-buying kicks back into the beef market, as on such sharp breaks in live cattle as have been recorded during the past season distributors go on short rations. Nothing retards the movement of beef through distributive channels so much as a slumpy fat-cattle trade. When cattle advance sharply, it is at least prima facie evidence that coolers are bare and beef men are scrambling to get product necessary to take care of their trade.

Excess of Heavy Steers Aggravates a Bad Situation

The spectacle has been witnessed recently of killers going short of beef requirements even during heavy cattle runs, to cover late in the same week at advances of 50 cents to $1 per cwt. At the beef-house a heavy early-week cattle run is always considered an infallible indication of continued plenitude, although it is, in many instances, merely a logical response to a previous sharp upturn, and will as inevitably be followed by supply contraction. This season the fact that feeders were in possession of a mob of overdone, overweight steers aggravated the situation, as they were alternately pressed into or held out of the market. A similar condition will be impossible next year, for the reason that such cattle will be available in limited numbers.

Short-Feds More Profitable

Short-fed heavy steers have been an aggravation, but these have made money, while long-feds have been heavy losers. Fleshy steers with weight, taken out at the low point in July and August, have been returned to market, after a brief stuffing, to make anywhere from $500 to $800, and in instances as much as $1,000, per carload. One drove of forty-five head that cost $6.45 in August landed on the high spot in November to earn $11.60, gaining 200 pounds meanwhile. Of course, these are prizes in a lottery, but all the July- and August-bought steers carrying weight have been highly profitable to feeders; which merely demonstrates that short feeding is a game requiring intelligence, courage, and partiality for the fascination that inevitably goes with an uncertain draw. The hazard is there, and no human power can eliminate it. Cinch players have no place in this phase of beef production.

Yearlings in Good Demand

Yearlings of all weights, types, and conditions have been equal to a creditable performance. Light cattle, whether valued at $6.50 or $13.75, have had no difficulty in getting over the scales at a reasonable hour, while the "big brutes" have frequently lain around the yards a week, and even longer, depreciating meanwhile. Feeders have been indifferent toward 900- to 1,100-pound steers of the two-way type, but killers have taken them without haggling. Beef yielded by steers costing from $8 down has moved into outlet channels with surprising facility, indicating that consumers have curtailed meat costs by the effective method of taking an inferior article. Bovine trash has actually been eligible to premiums, while the best beef ever turned out of a feed-lot has, at intervals, been an unsalable commodity. Late in November, killers grabbed 800- to 900-pound Montana steers that had been given a few feeds of wheat, paying $8.75 to $9.25, or 50 cents per cwt. more than feeders bid on the same cattle. This amounts to robbing the feed-lot to appease urgent cooler demand, and will be more in evidence as the winter works along.

Market Shows Much Resiliency

The cattle market is one bourse displaying ability to "come back." After a series of breaks and bulges, careful figuring has shown values to have changed little meanwhile. The breaks penalize the heavy runs, and on these breaks the bulk of supply changes hands. Ostensibly this is of advantage to the killer; actually he is handicapped. Fluctuations of 25 to 50 cents weekly are not illogical, but when prices swing $1 to $1.50 per cwt. in either direction, the trade is thrown violently off its stride. That come-backs are staged with such regularity is, however, gratifying, and should be reassuring to those who have cattle in the preparation stage.

Heavy Culling of Dairy Cows

For months past the cattle market has been deluged with trash, from which it will be relieved now that winter has set in. Owing to demoralization of the butter market, dairy herds have been drastically culled, cows selling anywhere from $3 to $4.50 per cwt. glutting every stock-yard in the country. Much of this meat has gone to consumers by the grinder route, the better cuts displacing that much better-grade beef. During periods of economic stress, when the public counts pennies, cheap foods have a distinct advantage in the process of merchandising, even when relatively costly. With western grass beef out of the way, and dairy-herd culling practically over for the season, intermediate-grade steers should benefit.

Numbers Keep Hog Prices Down

Hogs got fat early this year, descending on the market in such numbers during November as to depress average cost of droves at Chicago slightly under $8. Packers had no difficulty in buying all the hogs they needed in the country, and all the interior concentration points wrestled with full jags. To aggravate matters, temperatures were unseasonably high most of the month, curtailing fresh-meat demand; but the moment freezing weather appeared, loins advanced $3 to $4 per cwt. Hogs never did better, if as well, in corn-fields, and, as they cleaned up short yields, were hustled aboard the cars. Much of the month's supply cost killers $8 to $8.25 per cwt., and the avidity with which they went to the crop suggested a cutting profit, both large and small outfits claiming their share. On a 7½-cent country basis, hogs were able to pay their board-bill only because the corn price dropped. Even then there was a marked disposition to take the short route to the money. The heavy movement is expected to continue until well long in January, when the residue of the crop will work into stronger hands. Even speculating with respect to numbers or tonnage would be futile, but porcine health has been excellent, and, although the cholera-cure specialists have been voluble, by radio and otherwise, in proclaiming necessity for using their wares, few sick hogs have been reported. Export trade, both in lard and in meats, has been reduced to about half the volume of the corresponding period of 1929, and, despite light stocks, neither lard nor meat prices have responded. Speculation is at low ebb, provision trade lacking old-time leadership. Cold weather insures increased pork consumption, and industrial depression favors the product, although lamb and poultry are formidable competitors by reason of low cost, even to ultimate consumers. There is scant prospect of expanding export volume, as Europe is well supplied with home-grown meats, and lard substitutes are superabundant. One reason for the slack domestic demand for lard is continued heavy imports of copra, cocoa oil, and other vegetable substitutes, which are both popular and cheap. No excuse for expanding hog production exists, as the last thing desirable is a heavy accumulation of product in packers' cellars.

Lamb Values Ascend Toward End of Month

Lamb trade uncovered a new low spot for many years past at the middle of November, but was able to come back to the extent of $1 per cwt. subsequently, closing the month with an encouraging spurt that may or may not be deceptive. At least it proved that getting out of a rut is possible. November receipts were burdensome much of the time, depressing wholesale dressed prices and necessitating recourse to the freezer. At one stage of the glut, lambs by the trainload were shipped from Detroit, Cleveland, and other eastern markets to Chicago for slaughter, which has rarely, if ever, happened before. At the low spot, $7.50 to $7.75 took practically all the good-to-choice lambs at Chicago; on the high point late in the month it was an $8.25 to $8.50 market, with the upper crust at $8.75 to $8.90. Supply was erratic from week to week, which was largely responsible for violent price swings. Feeding lambs held steady most of the month, advancing to a $6.75 to $7.25 basis. The western run petered out, but several strings of Montana wheat-fed lambs arrived late in the month, selling in line with the market. More feeding lambs could have been utilized at the prices, Michigan feeders discovering that they were short and that "come-back" western lambs were fat, affording them scant opportunity to buy second-hand westerns. While the month's markets were a disappointment to feeders, all the fed lambs marketed paid well for their board, in which fine weather, cheap grains, and low initial cost were factors. Native lambs were cashed in considerable numbers, but a clean-up was not effected, the probability being that natives will be available until along in January. Slaughter has exceeded previous records right along, and, although bargain sales have been necessary to clear the product, the bulk of the lamb processed has gone into immediate consumption.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES SHOWING PRICES ON THE principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on December 1, 1930, compared with November 3, 1930, and November 29, 1929:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:	Dec. 1, 1930	Nov. 3, 1930	Nov. 29, 1929
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.)	$11.75-13.50	$10.50-12.50	$13.75-15.50
Good	9.50-12.75	8.75-11.25	12.25-14.25
Choice (1,100 lbs. down)	12.75-13.75	12.25-13.25	15.00-15.50
Good	10.00-12.75	10.00-12.25	12.50-15.00
Medium (800 lbs. up)	8.50-10.50	8.00-10.25	10.75-12.50
FED YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice	10.50-13.75	11.00-13.50	13.00-15.75
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice	9.00-12.50	8.50-12.50	9.25-15.00
COWS:			
Good to Choice	5.25- 7.25	5.00- 7.50	7.25-10.00
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up)	7.00- 9.00	7.00- 9.00	9.75-11.00
Common to Medium	5.50- 7.25	5.00- 7.00	7.75- 9.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down)	7.50- 9.25	7.25- 9.00	10.25-11.75
Common to Medium	5.50- 7.50	5.00- 7.25	7.50-10.25
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)	8.15- 8.35	9.10- 9.25	9.15- 9.50
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (92 lbs. down)	6.00- 8.50	6.50- 8.75	11.25-13.50

DEMAND GOOD FOR STOCKERS

J. E. P.

STOCK AND FEEDING CATTLE HAVE ADVANCED $1 per cwt. or more since the low spot uncovered early in August. The October and November movement was of normal volume, but practically the entire package that went into territory east of the Missouri River passed through the central markets. At the few country stocker sales held, attendance was limited and bidding tame. Feeders west of the Missouri River have acquired their winter cattle in the usual manner, many of them buying the same brands year after year. How many cattle are in the preparation stage for the winter and spring beef supply, no living man knows. No information regarding the direct movement from pasture to feed-lot is available, but that it was substantially less than for several years past is not open to dispute.

Feeders have acquired a cheap crop of cattle, measured by replacement costs in recent years. On a comparison with 1929 investment, prices have ruled about $3 per cwt. lower. The strategic position of the feeder has been further improved by a continuous decline in corn, substantially reducing cost of making gains; and if the number of cattle to go into the national beef supply during the first six months of 1931 is materially lighter than during the previous corresponding period, beef-makers should have an inning. Hay shortage has been met by shredding corn fodder and making silage, so that gains will cost little more than last winter. Feeders have also been favored by ideal physical conditions all over the Corn Belt. If the summer was torrid, September to November facilitated making rapid, cheap gains, thousands of warmed-up steers returning to market in November that ordinarily would not have reported until after the turn of the year.

Feeders have bought most of their thin cattle at a range of $6.50 to $8, a sprinkling of low-grade steers down to $5, and a limited delegation of choice, northern-bred, "whiteface" yearlings up to $9.50. If cattle cannot be fed out on this investment basis, the industry is in hopeless condition. The normal percentage of weighty feeders, 900 pounds up, has been acquired, but such cattle will be returned to market at far lighter weight than this year, the present disposition being to turn them over without crossing the 1,250-pound line. Practically every bullock, except a small percentage of choice steers in the hands of regular feeders, is intended for an early market, feeders having their eyes skinned for a promising spot on the market to drop them. Even light cattle will be cut loose at the earliest opportunity, the probability being that feeders will go from one extreme to the other. This year many carried cattle past their logical market and into excessive weight; on the repercussion they may dump prematurely at deficient weight. That tendency has been in evidence recently, many 900- to 1,100-pound steers in merely good feeder flesh returning to market, the corn they had consumed doing them little good. A few went to the feed-lot for a second trip, killers taking the bulk to satisfy demand for light, cheap beef, which will be accentuated after the holidays.

Present indications point to an all-winter replacement demand. The Corn Belt is short of its usual quota of cattle, feed is available at a reasonable price, and there is no scarcity of roughage. If the crop of steers now on feed makes a little money, operators will be back at the market for more.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., December 3, 1930.

THE TRADE IN THE DENVER CATTLE MARKET was very satisfactory during most of the month of November. Northern Colorado feeders, who did comparatively little buying in October, were present in force and took out a great many feeding cattle. Feeders from other districts were also strong contenders for the stock offered. Although the supply was somewhat heavier than a year ago, it was all taken read-

ily, and there was very little congestion from day to day. Good fat steers, that sold at $7.50 to $8.50 early in November, were bringing from $8 to $8.75 at the close, with choice kinds up to $9. Grass heifers, selling at $7.50 to $8.25 early in the month, were bringing about the same prices at the close. Cows, bringing largely from $4.75 to $6 at the close of October, were finding outlet at about the same prices, quality considered, a month later. Feeder trade was active. A great many good steers went to the country at around $8 to $8.75, with choice kinds up to $9, and light steers of choice quality up to $9.15, on the closing days. These prices were a little better than those prevailing at the close of October.

Demand continues satisfactory for good feeding cattle, as many feeders have not yet made their purchases. Indications are for a good trade well up to the holidays, while there is very likely to be a strong inquiry and a very good supply of feeder cattle at the Denver yards during Stock Show week—the third week in January.

Hogs.—Hog trade was active during the month, although there was some decline in prices. Good-quality fat hogs were selling early in November at a top of $9; by the middle of the month the best hogs were bringing around $8.35, ond on the closing session $8.30 took the tops.

Indications point to a fairly good trade during the next few months. While values have dropped somewhat in recent weeks, inquiry continues very good, and reports from the country indicate that there is no oversupply of hogs on feed.

Sheep.—Sheep trade was quite active, with prices on fat lambs strong to 25 cents higher at the close, while feeder lambs were selling fully steady to a little stronger than a month ago. Despite a larger supply, inquiry was strong enough to take everything offered readily. Good fat lambs were selling at $7 to $7.50 early in the month; by the middle of November choice qualities were bringing up to $7.65, and on the closing session packers paid up to $7.75. Feeder lambs sold early in the month at $7 to $7.60, according to quality, while at the close the same grades were bringing around $7.25 to $7.65. Fat ewes sold generally steady at the close of November, with desirable grades bringing from $3 to $3.50, which was about the price at which they were selling early in the month.

A very good demand continues for feeding lambs. While receipts are not nearly so heavy as in November, a good supply is coming from day to day, and they are being taken readily at prices fully in line with those prevailing at other markets. In some districts of the territory tributary to Denver a shortage in the number of lambs on feed is reported, as compared with last year. Other sections report fully as many in the feed-lots. The district, as a whole, however, is said to be short several hundred thousand head, as compared with a year ago. Indications point to fairly good prices for both fat and feeder lambs throughout the coming month.

Horses.—Horse trade was fairly active, with a good demand at the local yards. While receipts were not heavy, stock coming to market found a ready sale, at prices generally steady compared with a month ago. Good-quality heavy work-horses are selling at $90 to $125 a head and up, and good, big work-mules at about the same prices.

SHEEP MARKET OUTLOOK

J. E. P.

A RECORD LAMB TONNAGE PRODUCTION THIS YEAR has furnished killers with a large volume of business; consumers, with an abundance of cheap meat. How production has responded to a long period of profitable prices is indicated by a ten-month slaughter under federal inspection, January to October, of 13,964,672 head, of which few were sheep. During the corresponding period of 1929 this slaughter was 11,773,223 head, and only as recently as 1927 it was down to 10,717,714 head—in increase of over 3,000,000 head in four years. No such expansion has previously been recorded by the industry, and may not be in the future, as the production cycle is now at the contraction stage. Another heavy lamb crop is scheduled for 1931, however, especially if bucking and lambing seasons are favorable, nature having a confirmed habit of favoring surplus production. Owing to a non-receptive sheep market this year, few ewes went to the butcher from either the farming or the pastoral area, and should they get through the winter safely, the great majority will yield a lamb. Farm flocks have been preserved; in fact, the average farm-owner appears to be in a mood to go along raising lambs, on the theory that they produce revenue, are easily maintained, and diversify his farming operations. Several years of low prices will be necessary seriously to restrict lamb production, as the whole country is long on breeding stock, with no means of cashing it except at ruinous prices.

No reliable statistics concerning the number of lambs in preparation for the winter market are available. For various reasons, the direct movement from range to Corn Belt feed-lots was large; that to Colorado and Nebraska light, especially when compared with the big holding thereabouts a year ago. Lambs were tucked away at such low prices, compared with previous years, that the feeder's prospect is decidedly favorable. What happened at the market late in November, when

fat lambs jumped $1 per cwt., and dressed stock $2 to $3, in a few days, carries suggestion that distributive trade is in a healthy condition and will pick up the moment congestion is relieved. November was not only a month of heavy receipts, but high temperatures, which are always adverse to lamb consumption, the first cold snap late in the month creating a buying flurry.

Probably as many lambs are in preparation for the January-to-March market as last year, although, not being held by Colorado and Nebraska, they are not so conspicuously in the show-window. They are scattered everywhere, and are ready to respond to the call of the market at any minute, which was evidenced by a run of 30,000 at Chicago on the last Friday of November, in response to a dollar advance. So healthy was dressed trade, however, that the entire package was absorbed without taking off more than 25 cents.

Early last winter physical conditions were unfavorable to making gains; this year everything has facilitated the operation. Lambs running in corn-fields have never done so well, mortality has been small, and the return movement to market was well under way in November, or before the run of grass westerns was over. This insures well-filled December-to-March markets. Thereafter supply volume will be dubious, as it will be possible to replace with a new set of western hay-fed lambs, if the first feeding makes money—and speculative feeders are always on the alert to grab a dollar. Later on, when the Corn Belt has cleaned up and the visible supply is concentrated west of the Missouri River, prices should pick up. One not illogical reason for a high market is that last winter's crash occurred late, and price movements rarely repeat the previous season's performance.

Packers have been reducing to meat fair-fleshed lambs that ordinarily go out to feed-lots by the hundred thousand, and have also put thousands on feed for their own account—for what reason must be conjectured. They have them in feed-lots adjacent to the markets, and may use them for price-control purposes, although it is doubtful if the acquisition was with the object of losing money. Packers cannot put on a pound of gain at one cent less than any experienced feeder, so that their investment can only be construed as meaning that they believe the winter market will be capable of absorbing offerings at prices that will at least keep the capital together and reimburse them to the extent of the feed-bill.

The feeder's position is decidedly stronger than at the corresponding time last winter, when he was loaded to the guards with thin lambs acquired on a buying spell at prices that proved prohibitive of profit in the finality of the operation. Investment this year was on a 5- to 7-cent basis, according to time and place of purchase. If lambs bought that way cannot pay out, the canine population will become too impoverished to support fleas. Since the "dollar corn" chimera blew up, the feed-bill is no longer onerous.

Colorado feeders made an overplay in their replacement program, forcing them to cover late in the season at higher prices than could have been obtained on the range earlier. Northwestern breeders, in preference to taking less than 5 cents at the loading-points, made contracts with farmer-feeders on an extensive scale, retaining control of the stock and paying a stated price for the gain. The expedient relieved selling pressure in the West, moved thousands of lambs to farming areas, where, owing to tight financial conditions, investment was impossible, and started feeder prices upward. The outcome cannot, of course, be determined until the final stage of the operation is reached, but it is doubtful if any of the lambs thus handled will pay less than 5 cents per pound, range basis.

NO IMPROVEMENT IN WOOL

J. E. P.

TAKING CARRYING CHARGES INTO THE RECKONing, wool of the last clip already sold has been advantageously disposed of. Hope for higher prices is not based on belief, and most of the optimism with which wool trade has been regaled for six months past is badly discredited. There is wool in abundance the world over, and, regardless of how strongly it may be held, the fact that it is in the visible supply is not open to dispute. Consumption is low, goods markets are spotty and backward, and the stated policy of weavers is to keep on a hand-to-mouth basis, so far as their supply of raw material is concerned. Clothing stocks may be low and fabrics well sold up, but the mill man refuses to be stampeded into buying wool. "Keep inventories down," is his slogan.

Foreign markets report technical improvement during the past thirty days, especially in the case of fine wools, but no distinct price advances have been recorded. It remains to be seen if the market has been stabilized sufficiently to absorb such heavy offerings as are usually made early in the new year. If so, it will be a sign of reaction. Prices have reached such low levels, especially in South America, that reactions seem logical. Quotations on Uruguayan fine cross-breds are down to levels that should make it possible to compete with corresponding grades of domestic wool, despite the tariff.

As figured by J. A. Hill, the wool specialist of the Wyoming Agricultural College, values of the five principal grades of territory wool figure an average of 18.7 cents, or exactly one-half of 37.4 cents—the value for the same index at the peak in May and June, 1928. This should exert a stabilizing influence, and will if the industrial situation improves. At the moment, however, clothing-distributors are more interested in cleaning up stocks than in buying more goods. Forced sales have been in progress all over the country, at prices below cost, the purpose being to get money into the bank to meet maturing obligations. This has kicked back into the mills, and thence to the wool-loft. Eventually a shortage of fabrics and clothing will develop, and when that happens the wool market will wear a more animated appearance.

HIDE TRADE CONTINUES TORPID

HIDE TRADE HAS BEEN TRAVELING AN UNcharted sea, much of the time in a dead calm. For several weeks tanners let big packer hides severely alone. The leather market has been in similarly stagnant condition. Packers accumulated until late in November, when several accepted the inevitable, took off a cent, and effected a partial clearance. Branded cows were moved at 8 cents; light native cows, at 8½ cents; heavy native steers, at 11 cents; and Colorado steers, at 10½ cents. At this writing the exact position of packers' holdings cannot be determined. Small packer all-weight native cows and steers are quoted at 8 cents; branded, at 7½ cents. The country-hide market is demoralized, owing to low prices on packer stocks. All-weight country hides are not listed above 6½ cents delivered, with 60-pound and up cows at 6 cents. With big packer light cows at 8½ cents, buyers are not disposed to pay more than 8 cents for 25- to 45-pound extremes. Tanners insist that what they need is leather business, not raw stock, and the leather market is sluggish, unsettled, or anything else that may be applicable to a desultory trade.

As to whether values are at the bottom or not, trade opinion differs. All the optimism indulged in for months past was discredited by the November market. Tanners assert that they are carrying burdensome stocks of leather, and would welcome opportunity to cash, enabling them to take advantage of current low prices of raw material.

The futures market has been on a steep down-grade, dropping 1 cent per pound in a few days, with no indication of rallying power.

LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES SHOWING RECEIPTS, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-five markets for the month of October, 1930, compared with October, 1929, and for the ten months ending October, 1930 and 1929:

RECEIPTS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	1,676,878	1,787,067	11,416,718	11,827,916
Calves	700,515	619,790	5,317,210	5,114,266
Hogs	3,441,356	3,701,324	33,333,273	35,907,426
Sheep	3,783,561	4,092,755	24,893,733	22,997,473

TOTAL SHIPMENTS†

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	939,770	1,036,515	4,983,848	5,223,694
Calves	283,239	234,289	1,734,656	1,537,994
Hogs	1,392,186	1,380,687	13,070,576	13,308,643
Sheep	2,237,794	2,818,617	11,990,482	12,055,734

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	570,262	672,725	2,216,181	2,572,507
Calves	120,476	84,724	400,661	267,253
Hogs	39,346	50,412	439,193	517,195
Sheep	1,023,857	1,831,458	3,419,946	4,807,076

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Cattle*	768,226	780,578	6,277,918	6,438,374
Calves	414,983	389,352	3,588,028	3,586,850
Hogs	2,048,029	2,333,258	20,253,869	22,576,422
Sheep	1,597,015	1,327,836	12,863,583	10,890,422

*Exclusive of calves. †Including stockers and feeders.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY OF STORAGE HOLDINGS OF frozen and cured meats on November 1, 1930, as compared with November 1, 1929, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	Nov. 1, 1930	Nov. 1, 1929	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef	47,246,000	51,902,000	37,064,000
Cured beef*	16,406,000	20,157,000	19,474,000
Lamb and mutton	4,337,000	4,992,000	3,304,000
Frozen pork	64,053,000	75,910,000	59,578,000
Dry salt pork*	43,300,000	111,092,000	103,534,000
Pickled pork*	248,990,000	304,400,000	274,870,000
Miscellaneous	72,414,000	63,914,000	52,579,000
Totals	496,746,000	632,367,000	550,403,000
Lard	35,728,000	99,845,000	73,010,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

TRADE REVIEW

FOREIGN TRADE IN OCTOBER

EXPORTS AS WELL AS IMPORTS DURING OCTOBER showed increases over the previous month, but were still much below those of a year ago, exports being $200,000,000 and imports $143,000,000 less. For the first ten months of the year, exports declined 24.9 per cent from the like period of 1929, and imports 29.4 per cent. The figures for October and the ten months follow:

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Exports	$328,000,000	$528,514,000	$3,280,010,000	$4,372,657,000
Imports	248,000,000	391,063,000	2,649,149,000	3,751,272,000
Excess of exports	$ 80,000,000	$137,451,000	$ 630,861,000	$ 621,385,000

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS

EXPORTS OF MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS, AND ANIMAL fats from the United States for the month of October and the ten months ending October, 1930, as compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Beef, fresh	245,214	225,729	2,512,222	2,455,288
Beef, pickled	2,002,639	771,191	12,545,444	9,417,827
Beef, canned	98,984	226,142	1,480,132	2,200,330
Oleo oil	4,294,850	5,110,870	46,578,784	58,241,450
Totals	6,641,687	6,333,932	63,116,582	72,314,895

PORK PRODUCTS

	October		Ten Months Ending October	
	1930	1929	1930	1929
Pork, fresh	437,728	1,061,719	13,137,091	9,747,635
Pork, pickled	1,858,797	4,841,645	27,301,636	38,595,070
Bacon	3,267,756	9,972,848	81,109,217	117,103,154
Cumberland sides	189,938	431 289	3,731,806	5,024,070
Hams and shoulders	5,259,256	7,579,957	104,163,162	107,183,982
Wiltshire sides	5,406	281,839	3,619,856	4,183,872
Sausage, canned	84,307	245,834	1,208,015	1,924,108
Lard	41,395,535	70,697,961	554,820,046	666,018,063
Lard compounds	253,476	332,847	1,982,763	3,019,099
Neutral lard	630,410	1,116,152	11,328,319	15,879,943
Totals	53,382,609	96,562,091	802,401,911	968,679,996

SHOE IMPORTS DECLINE

BOOTS AND SHOES IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED States during the first nine months of 1930 totaled 3,462,746 pairs, valued at $9,502,889, as compared with 4,369,646 pairs, valued at $12,476,817, for the corresponding period of 1929.

For the three months July to September, when the new tariff rates were operative, imports of shoes were 226,597 pairs, against 1,221,537 pairs for the like period in 1929.

WHOLESALE MEAT PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED meats at Chicago on December 1, as compared with October 29, 1930, were as below (per 100 pounds):

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

	Dec. 1, 1930	Oct. 29, 1930
STEERS (700 lbs. up):		
Choice	$17.00-18.50	$16.00-18.00
Good	15.00-17.00	15.00-16.50
STEERS (550 to 700 lbs.):		
Choice	18.00-21.00	17.50-20.00
Good	15.50-18.00	15.00-17.50
YEARLING STEERS:		
Choice	20.00-22.50	19.00-21.50
Good	16.50-20.00	16.00-19.00
COWS:		
Good	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
VEALERS:		
Choice	16.00-18.00	16.00-19.00
Good	15.00-17.00	15.00-17.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

LAMBS (45 lbs. down):		
Choice	$17.00-19.00	$15.50-17.00
Good	16.00-18.00	15.00-16.00
EWES:		
Good	8.00-10.00	7.00- 8.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

8-10 lb. average	$18.00-20.00	$19.00-21.00
10-12 lb. average	17.00-19.00	19.00-21.00

FEEDSTUFFS

TWENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS, F. O. B. TEXAS POINTS, was the price of cottonseed cake and meal on December 4. Prices on hay at Kansas City, December 1, were: Alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, $25.50 to $29; No. 2 extra leafy, $24 to $25; No. 1, $23 to $23.50; No. 2 leafy, $21.50 to $22.50; No. 2, $19 to $21; No. 3 leafy, $17 to $18.50; No. 3, $13 to $16.50; sample, $7 to $12.50; prairie—No. 1, $12.50 to $14; No. 2, $9.50 to $12; No. 3, $7.50 to $9; sample, $5 to $7; timothy—No. 1, $15.50 to $17; No. 2, $14.50 to $15; No. 3, $13 to $14; sample, $10.50 to $12.50; timothy-clover, mixed—No. 1, $15.50 to $16.50; No. 2, $14.50 to $15; No. 3, $12 to $14.

FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, October 14, 1930.

THE 1930 FROZEN-BEEF EXPORT SEASON IS DRAWING to a close in the north. The Wyndham meat-works in Western Australia finished killing in September, and those in the Townsville district of Queensland about six weeks ago. Three plants on the Brisbane River, south Queensland, are still operating on a small scale, but a considerable percentage of the beef is going into consumption in the southern states of the Commonwealth, where there is a more profitable market than overseas.

Taking the season by and large, it has been a disappointing one for both packers and graziers, and none will be sorry to see the back of it. Shortly after the freezing-works opened, values on the oversea markets experienced one of the worst relapses in the history of the trade, which must have involved holders, and those with forward commitments, in serious trouble. For instance, Australian frozen hindquarters at Smithfield, London, dropped from 11½ to 10¼ cents a pound, and fores from 9¾ to 6¾ cents, in two weeks at the end of May. They remained at the latter levels, or lower, until August before any improvement was manifested. Since then the appreciation has been slow, and today hinds are selling at ¾ cent and fores at 1½ cents less than in May.

The sudden drop was naturally reflected in prices paid by packers for fat cattle, though perhaps not to the extent that the fall in the selling markets would seem to have justified. This was probably accounted for in Queensland by the strong competition amongst shippers for the limited supplies available. Taking the season right through, the average paid for bullocks treated at the north Queensland packing-plants approximated $5.28 a hundred pounds delivered, compared with about $5.76 in 1929. The buying rate in the central division was $6 per cwt., as against $6.84 last year, and in south Queensland $7.20 to $7.44, compared with an average not far short of $7.80 in 1929. At the Wyndham works, Western Australia, the rate has been practically the same in each year—i. e., $4.80 for first ox beef. As, however, the Wyndham plant is run on what amounts to a co-operative basis by the state government, a clause is inserted in the buying contract which provides that, if the whole output of beef averages more than a specified basic price per pound, suppliers of cattle are to receive 100 per cent of such excess up to 1 cent a pound, and 50 per cent of anything over 1 cent. This year growers are not likely to benefit under that clause.

It is gathered from official returns that 253,773 head of cattle were submitted for slaughter and inspection for export at Queensland packing-plants up to September 30 this year. The total for the corresponding period of 1929 was 306,473. It will thus be seen that there has been a decrease of nearly 20 per cent in the numbers treated. That, of course, is due chiefly to losses of cattle and breeders during the drought, now happily ended. Not but that the depression in the beef trade of the last few years, and unhappily not yet ended, is also responsible. When beef was at its worst, and wool was selling well, there was a definite swing over from cattle to sheep in many parts of the north. The movement continued for some time, and no doubt some country was utilized for growing wool which had better been left under cattle. Anyhow, I hear that there is a tendency to revert to beef production in some districts, but the change back will necessarily be much slower, as young cattle and breeders are difficult to obtain.

In a letter written last December I made reference to the possible purchase of Swift Australian Company's large Brisbane packing-plant by the Queensland government for conversion into a public abattoir. After lengthy negotiations, the deal has just been completed, and a bill passed through Parliament authorizing the purchase. Swift's works occupy an area of 367 acres on the Brisbane River, quite close to the city, and are an up-to-date plant. They are said to have cost the company $3,500,000 to build. Under the terms of sale, the firm is to make certain alterations, estimated to cost $536,500, and to transfer the whole plant to an independent board of management for the joint use of the company, other exporters, and domestic butchers, for the consideration of $2,475,000. No actual cash is to be paid the company, but it will receive twenty-year debentures for the purchase price, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

Swift & Company have also undertaken to erect the necessary sale-yards on lands attached to the works, at an estimated cost not to exceed $190,000, for which they are to receive debentures with a currency of ten years, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent.

When completed, the works and paddocks will incorporate all modern abattoir requirements, and provide separate facilities for the domestic and export trade, with a total daily capacity for the treatment of 1,200 cattle, 3,500 sheep, 450 calves, and 350 pigs. Swifts have guaranteed to kill the equivalent of 40,000 cattle annually for the next ten years at the abattoir.

As standing at present, the works have a daily killing capacity of 600 cattle and 3,000 sheep, and I understand it is

proposed to add another killing-floor. When remodeled, in the terms of the agreement the company puts the value of plant and land at $4,690,920, of which the sale price represents little over 50 per cent. It is fairly obvious, though, that the firm has been glad to complete the deal, as the plant is constructed on much too large a scale for the numbers of cattle now available for slaughter by any one concern in south Queensland. Swifts also have works in the north of Queensland, at Townsville. These they so far have not been able to sell.

The fat-cattle markets in the southern states have been poorly supplied most of the winter, and prices have ruled correspondingly high. This has led to the shipment of a good deal of chilled and some frozen beef south from Queensland—has, indeed, provided an acceptable outlet at a time when oversea markets were highly unprofitable. Local supplies in the south are now increasing and values dropping. Last week first-grade bullocks were realizing from $11.50 to $12.50 a hundred pounds in the Melbourne yards, and from $11 to $12 at Sydney, with choice lines 50 cents dearer.

CANADA FARMERS ASK FOR GUARANTEED WHEAT PRICE

IN VIEW OF THE EMERGENCY EXISTING AMONG the farming population of the Canadian wheat belt, a memorandum has been addressed by the United Farmers of Alberta to the Dominion government, asking a guaranteed price on No. 1 northern wheat of $1.15 a bushel. It is proposed that this price remain effective until such time as an investigation to determine the relative costs of agricultural products and of the implements of production and necessities of life shall have been concluded. The memorandum contains other recommendations, among them being a general reduction in freight and interest rates, free transportation of coal to needy areas, and that beneficiaries of Canada's new tariff be compelled to sell their products to farmers' co-operative purchasing associations at prices no higher than those charged to other distributors.

It is pointed out that the price of $1.15 a bushel is much lower than that insured by the governments of leading European countries to their farmers.

"We deplore the failure of the Dominion government to provide any substantial measure of relief for agriculture, while on the contrary, under the guise of assisting the unemployed, they propose to add to the burdens borne by the primary producers, and the consumers, by extending the special privileges already enjoyed by the manufacturing industries," says the memorandum. "The declared purpose of the increases in the tariff is to create more employment and to increase purchasing power among the industries engaged in manufacture. This purpose must fail unless at the same time Canada's principal consumers, the farmers, are enabled to buy."

MOISTURE-LESS MEAT

A NEW ZEALANDER HAS INVENTED A METHOD OF converting meat into a flour or granulated powder that will keep indefinitely and, when cooked, is indistinguishable from fresh meat. All the moisture, and the substances which cause meat to "go bad," have been removed without cooking or in any way affecting the nutrient value or flavor. When required for use, moisture is restored by simply adding boiling water, the flour swelling to the consistency of freshly minced lean meat, which may then be prepared as usual. No preservatives are used, and the concentrate is not affected by contact with the air.

Supplies tested by the New Zealand and Australian governments were found to be perfectly sound after the lapse of twenty months. Investigators speak in the highest terms of the new process.

EFFECT OF NEW TARIFF ON MEAT IMPORTS

THE EFFECT OF OUR NEW TARIFF RATES IS BEGINning to show in a material reduction in imports of fresh meats. As an illustration, New Zealand, which has been one of our chief sources of this class of imports, during the year ended September 30, 1930, sent us only 3,711 quarters of beef, 7 carcasses of lamb, and no mutton, against 88,261 quarters of beef, 47,773 carcasses of lamb, and 13,423 carcasses of mutton in the previous twelve-month period.

By weight, imports from all sources for the eight months ended August 31, 1930, totaled 4,673,354 pounds of fresh beef, compared with 25,049,404 pounds for the corresponding period of 1929; 2,645,437 pounds of "other" fresh meats (principally lamb and mutton), compared with 10,317,531 pounds; and 47,134,307 pounds of canned meats (principally beef), as against 72,338,251 pounds.

Western Canada Gets Free Transportation of Breeding Stock

As an aid to cattle-breeders of western Canada in recapturing the British market, breeding stock will be hauled free of charge from the stock-yards at Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Calgary, and Edmonton for farmers west of the Great Lakes who desire to increase their herds.

THE BULLETIN BOARD

RANGE AND LIVE-STOCK REPORT

With favorable weather during October, range feed had improved, and live stock was generally in very good condition, according to the November report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Texas, Oklahoma, and eastern New Mexico had had some rain, breaking the long drought. Parts of eastern Montana and northeastern Wyoming still had a short supply of feed, but farther west conditions were much better than a year ago.

Thin cattle were few, except in limited areas. The run of grass-fat beef had not been so large as in past years. Marketings from many sections had been lighter than in the fall of 1929. Some attempt was being made to feed cattle where feed was plentiful.

There had been a tendency to delay range movements of sheep. Most of the ewe lambs had been held where feed conditions were favorable. The movement of lambs into feed-lots in Colorado and western Nebraska had been much lighter than in past seasons.

NUMBER OF FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVES

In a pamphlet entitled "Co-operative Marketing and Purchasing, 1920-1930," recently issued, the Department of Agriculture has collected all available data on marketing and purchasing by co-operative organizations in the United States during the past decade. It appears that the grain associations represent the largest group of the 12,000 farmers' co-operatives functioning in 1930, numbering 3,448. Dairy products come next, with 2,458; live stock has 2,153; fruits and vegetables, 1,384. These groups are estimated to have handled the following percentages of the total production in those lines, in the order named, during the 1927-28 marketing season: 29.6, 27, 13.9, and 13.

FISH MEAL IN ANIMAL FEEDING

The Bureau of Fisheries advises us that it will publish shortly a document entitled, "Fish Meal in Animal Feeding, with Bibliography," by John Ruel Manning, technologist of the Bureau of Fisheries. This document should be of interest, not only to persons in the fishery industries, but also to animal feeders and those interested in animal nutrition in general. The general nutritive properties of fish meal are discussed in detail. Results of experimental feeding of farm animals, as well as the work done with laboratory animals, are included. The methods of feeding fish meal, and the proportions or percentages of fish meal in the rations of various farm animals, recommended by the best authorities, are set forth.

When issued, this publication may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a nominal price.

WINTERING STEER CALVES

The North Park Range Calf Wintering Demonstration, in charge of the North Park Stock Growers' Association, was held at Walden, Colorado, on October 18, before a big crowd of cattlemen and visitors from Colorado and adjoining states. The results of the feeding tests are thus described in *Brands*, the little monthly published by the Wyoming Hereford Ranch:

"For two years the Extension Service of the Colorado Agricultural College, co-operating with J. H. Dickens, of North Park, has been experimenting to determine best methods of wintering steer calves, and whether supplemental feeds are profitable. The results can be studied with profit by cattlemen all through the West where conditions are comparable to those found in North Park.

"The experiments have been conducted with four lots of steer calves, taken from the time they were weaned, and carried through the first winter on feed and the following grazing period on

the range. The different lots were made as uniform as possible in quality and weight of calves, so that the results are a safe guide. The calves in Lot 1 weighed in at an average of 415 pounds. They were fed on native hay, with a supplement of cottonseed cake, and were supplied with warm water to drink. They ate daily an average of 14.25 pounds of hay and .89 pound of cake, and made an average daily gain of 1.14 pounds, or a total of 171 pounds, for the 151-day feeding period. On the range during the summer they made a gain of 233 pounds, and weighed 820 pounds on October 17. With this brief explanation, the following table will make an interesting study and comparison. No doubt the Colorado Extension Service at Fort Collins would be glad to forward complete data to anyone further interested:

WINTER PERIOD, 151 DAYS				
Number of head	32	32	32	32
Lot number	1	2	3	4
Ration fed	Native Hay Cottonseed Cake Warm Water	Native Hay Cottonseed Cake Cold Water	Alsike Hay Mixture Cold Water	Native Hay Cold Water
Initial weight	415.6	412.2	414.1	411.3
Final feed-lot weight	587.1	567.7	531.1	513.1
Gain, 151 days	171.4	155.6	117.0	101.9
Average daily gain, winter	1.14	1.03	0.78	0.67
SUMMER PERIOD, 157 DAYS				
Weight May 13	587.1	567.7	531.1	513.1
Weight October 17	820.8	805.3	784.2	769.0
Gain, 157 days	233.7	237.6	253.1	255.9
Average daily gain, summer	1.49	1.51	1.61	1.63
Total gain for entire period	405.1	393.2	370.1	357.8

NEW DEVICE FOR REMOVING OX-WARBLES

A "vacuum cleaner" contraption for extracting ox-warbles from cattle's backs has been developed by Drs. Imes and Boyd, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, stationed at Galesburg, Illinois. The device, which is built on an automobile trailer, has from four to six lines of suction hose and nozzles. When in operation, a nozzle is placed over a warble swelling, and the grub is drawn out through the opening. Owing to the tenacity of the older grubs, two or three attempts are often needed to dislodge them, but the veterinarians hope to perfect the machine sufficiently to get a grub with each suction. In regions where it is practicable to corral the cattle in large herds and send them through chutes to be "degrubbed," it is expected that this new contrivance will supplant the slower method of removing the grubs with a forceps or pressing them out with the fingers.

Ox-warble studies carried on by the Department of Agriculture have revealed that young animals are more heavily infested by this parasite than older ones, and also that females are more frequently preyed upon than bulls.

MACHINE FOR TESTING TENDERNESS IN MEAT

A machine for testing the tenderness of meats has been designed by specialists in the Department of Agriculture, and is now being used in the co-operative research program in which it is sought to discover what factors cause tenderness in meat.

The apparatus consists of a blade so arranged that it may be drawn through small samples of meat by exerting pres-

sure with a crank. A scale records the amount of pressure required to cut through the sample meat. The machine has been used to test more than 2,000 samples of pork, beef, and lamb, and, although not yet perfected, it gives a remarkably high correlation with the opinion of judges of tenderness who sample and score the meat after it is tested.

PAPER FROM CORNSTALKS

Utilization of cornstalks as raw material for the manufacture of paper was proved feasible about twenty years ago, but has been hindered by the comparatively high cost of the process, says the Bureau of Standards. Prospects are that not until our timber supplies decline sufficiently to effect a material increase in the price of wood-pulp will it become commercially profitable to produce cornstalk paper. This, it is estimated, will not happen for fifteen to twenty years yet.

Two companies are now using cornstalks in the manufacture of pulp for paper and wallboard. These companies use the stalks from more than fifty acres a year.

ENSILAGE FROM CACTI

That the cacti of the arid regions of the West possessed a certain feed value has long been recognized. The trouble was with the spines. Some years ago the Department of Agriculture devised a torch that would burn off the spines; but in practical application this was found too slow. Then Luther Burbank tackled the job of developing a thornless cactus, with some measure of success. But the despined plant, transferred back to the range, became the prey of rodents, and in self-protection soon reverted to type, as evolutionists would say.

Now an American rancher in Mexico claims to have discovered a method of rendering the spines harmless. This method consists in adding an inexpensive chemical compound of sulphate salts to the shredded cactus leaves, as these are tramped in a silo by men wearing wooden shoes. The chemical destroys the thorns. The resulting ensilage is claimed to equal that made from corn fodder, and to cost only about one-fourth as much to prepare.

FEWER FARMERS AND BIGGER CROPS

That the exodus of workers from the farm to the city will increase rather than diminish in the future, and yet that farm production will not suffer as a result, is the conclusion drawn by the American Research Foundation after a survey of the shifting agricultural population.

"The drift of population from the farm to the city need cause the United States no concern over agriculture's future," the foundation says, "since fewer farmers are now actually doing more work and producing greater crops."

More widespread adoption of power machinery is given as the reason why a shrinking farm population is able to maintain, and even increase, agricultural production. Between 1870 and 1929 the acreage farmed per worker increased 48 per cent, and the production in dollars per man increased 419 per cent.

"By 1950 there probably will be 150,000,000 people in the United States," the foundation predicts; "yet they will be fed by fewer farmers than were required to feed the nation's 25,000,000 inhabitants in 1850."

The largest single development contributing to the farmers' augmented production capacity is the increasing use of trucks, petroleum-driven tractors, and other power machinery.

BIRTH-RATE DECLINING

Last year the birth-rate of the United States dropped to 18.9 per 1,000 of population—the lowest since the establishment of the registration area in 1915, and only slightly above the rate which has been giving France so much concern during the past two or three decades. Oregon had the lowest rate of all the states—namely 14.1—and New Mexico the highest, 26.9.

THE SPICE BOX

Give 'Em a Chance.—Fred—"Are you fond of indoor sports?"
Freda—"Yes, if they don't stay too late!"—John Blunt (London).

Correct.—Teacher—"Johnny, take this sentence: 'Lead the cow from the pasture.' What mood?"
Johnny—"The cow, ma'am."—Missouri Pacific Magazine.

Mutual Emotion.—Mistress (discovering butler helping himself from cellarette)—"Robert, I am surprised!"
Butler—"So am I, ma'am. I thought you was out."—College Life.

Bright Idea.—Inspector—"Got away, has he? Did you guard all the exits?"
Country Constable—"Yes, but we think he must have left by one of the entrances."—Cooperative News.

Chance to Explain.—Rupert—"Darling, in the moonlight your teeth are like pearls."
Marjorie—"Oh, indeed! And when were you in the moonlight with Pearl?"—London Opinion.

Unanimous.—Irish Officer—"Men, ye are on the ave of battle. Will yez fight, or will yez run?"
"We will," shouted the men eagerly.
"Which will yez do?" says he.
"We will not," says they.
"Thank ye, me men," says he. "I thought ye would."—Weekly Scotsman.


SHIP

YOUR STOCK

TO

CHICAGO

THE

LIVE STOCK MARKET

OF THE WORLD